

Ministers were given secret papers on loss, steel chief says

The British Steel Corporation alerted ministers last April to a possible £350m loss this financial year. In July the projection was raised to £466m. Sir Charles Villiers, BSC's chairman, confirming these

£466m deficit projected in July

By Peter Hill, Industrial Correspondent

Ministers were alerted by the board of the British Steel Corporation last April to a likely loss of £350m in its financial year ending March 1978. Three months later the Corporation advised the Government that the loss could be £466m.

This disclosure comes two days after the all-party Select Committee on Nationalised Industries accused the BSC of concealing the true gravity of the corporation's financial position and its losses during the last year.

The committee is now seeking parliamentary authority to gain access to the confidential reports and correspondence which passed between the Department of Industry and Sir Charles Villiers, BSC's chairman.

These previously secret loss projections are in sharp contrast with public statements made by Sir Charles. The all-party committee has been left to draw its conclusions on the basis of these statements.

Last night, in an interview with *The Times*, Sir Charles confirmed that his board had submitted the £350m projection to the Department of Industry as a confidential operating plan, on which Whitehall bases its estimates of the corporation's performance and financial requirements.

The revision to £466m was also communicated to Whitehall, but the corporation chairman emphasised that these projections were contained in working documents and were not regarded by him as firm forecasts.

Because of the lack of figures of this nature the Select Committee has complained of being misled. As Sir Charles said, it was not possible to extract such information from Sir Charles when he appeared before the committee to give evidence.

However, in its submissions to Whitehall and in board papers, he BSC indicated in April that the corporation expected a loss of £350m. Sir Charles said that the loss projection was revised. A key paragraph from a report submitted to the July 23 board meeting stated: "We

Japan opens markets to foreign traders

From Peter Hazelhurst, Tokyo, Jan 13

Japan and the United States today ratified what the Americans described as a "dramatic" trade agreement, designed to provide American exporters and, subsequently, the world with greater access to Japan's domestic market.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Japanese Government, threatened by the growing wave of protectionism in the United States, has agreed to reduce a great number of trade barriers and to try to employ other fiscal and economic measures to turn Japan's huge international current account surplus of \$10,000m (nearly £5,000m) this year into equilibrium, or possibly a deficit, by 1979.

The details of the agreement, drafted by Robert Strauss, President Carter's special trade negotiator, and Mr Nobuhiko Ushiba, Japan's State Minister for External Economic Affairs, in Tokyo today, were described as a turning point in Japan's trade policy philosophy and of great significance to the rest of the world.

Under the terms of the agreement, which is to be applied to all Japan's trading partners, the Japanese government will take the following measures to increase imports:

1. Cut tariffs on 318 items, accounting for \$2,000m worth of imports, from April 1.
2. Remove quota controls on 12 products.
3. Liberalize foreign exchange controls on the principle that all transactions should be free unless prohibited specifically.
4. Increase opportunities for foreign suppliers to tender for government procurement schemes.
5. Simplify inspection requirements on imports.
6. Expand import credits and relax rules for standard settlements.

At the conclusion of the crucial two-day meeting in Tokyo today, Mr Strauss telephoned President Carter in Washington to declare that he was highly satisfied with the new trade agreement.

Speaking to journalists later today, Mr Strauss said: "The results of the past two days of negotiations are extremely meaningful, not just to Tokyo but also throughout the United States and, indeed, throughout the world."

"We have redefined an economic relationship between two nations and we feel that it represents a change in direction and philosophy."

Describing the results of the negotiations as "dramatic", Mr Strauss went on to say that Japan had set itself a target of a 7 per cent target for economic growth this year that "will help greatly as we attempt to work our way out of a global recession".

As Mr Strauss flew back to Washington, his Japanese counterpart, Mr Ushiba, said that Japan had been reluctant at first to commit itself to specific concessions in the agreement, but that it had been persuaded by the warnings that President Carter's Administration was no longer capable of facing off demands for protectionism.

In spite of the breakthrough, however, many Japanese economists remained sceptical to-night about whether Japan could achieve a 7 per cent growth rate, a demand for imports and reduce the country's huge trade surplus in the foreseeable future.

Reputable research organizations believe it can achieve a growth rate of only 4.6 per cent.

Continued on page 17, col 4



Snow, slush and ice making motoring treacherous near Helmsley, in North Yorkshire. Another photograph, page 2.

Police reinforced to halt looting after floods

Looting was reported at Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, yesterday as the town, like many others along the east coast, counted the 'cost' of Wednesday night's storms, which made thousands homeless.

A police official said: "We have received several reports of looting. Only cash and little household things have been taken. Sixteen extra policemen from other districts have been brought in to patrol the areas where there are still empty homes."

About 300 houses in the town were still empty last night and

700 people were staying at two relief centres.

The town's mayor called for Wisbech to be declared a disaster area and asked for financial help from the Government.

Margate lifeboat, which was isolated 500 yards out to sea in the storm, was rescued yesterday. A crew was landed on the boat by a RAF helicopter and found the £200,000 lifeboat undamaged. It was taken to Ramsgate.

The National Farmers' Union in Kent said it would press the Government through

country's MPs to declare parts of the county a disaster area. The sea wall between Whitstable and Stirlingbourne and along the Swale estuary had been breached in several places. Hundreds of acres of barley and wheat were severely damaged.

At King's Lynn, Norfolk, where more than 400 homes were flooded, Mr Frank Cork, the mayor, called for fresh thinking on flood warnings. "People had too little time to prepare defences—if they had any at all," he said.

In the Commons, Mr Guy Barnett, Under-Secretary of State, Environment, said local authorities have powers to make

grants or loans to people who suffered from the floods. Under the Local Government Act, 1972, councils could spend money immediately on emergency work and then ask the Department of the Environment for financial assistance.

Damage to private property at Deal, Kent, was estimated at more than £1,250,000. Yesterday, five on roads brought many accidents throughout the North-west. One person was killed and several others were injured in a 16-vehicle crash on the M6 motorway near the Thelwall viaduct, Great Manchester.

European storms, page 4

Restrictions eased on codebreaking secrets

By Peter Hennessey

Members of intelligence organizations during the Second World War have been partly absolved from the undertakings they gave, governed by the Official Secrets Acts, never to disclose the extent and success of British attempts to intercept and break the most secret coded signals of the German armed forces. But information about the methods used by British codebreakers must still be kept secret.

Resistances remain on the techniques, and technology of Bletchley Park, the Buckinghamshire home of the Second World War "Ultra" codebreaking community is anxious that disclosure, even at this late stage, might jeopardize the security of present-day operations. The practice of interception and codebreaking is continuing in peacetime by many countries, including the United Kingdom, though in most cases it is not acknowledged.

Dr Owen, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, has published new guidelines governing disclosure about intelligence during the last year in a parliamentary written reply. Many former employees of MI6, the Foreign Office and the service intelligence directorates have been in touch with their old departments about their freedom to speak as a result of documents dealing with the "Ultra" secret, as it is known from the code name

given to the product of wartime wireless intelligence, being deposited at the Public Record Office in October.

In his written reply to Mr John Parker, Labour MP for Barking, Dagenham, Dr Owen said: "Those who gave the undertakings of secrecy to which I have referred are now absolved from them to the limited extent that they may now disclose the fact that they worked 'at' or 'used' material based on intercepted messages of the enemy armed forces."

"They may," for example, acknowledge having worked as interceptors, cypher breakers, distributors or users of this material, and may reveal what they know of the use made of it in the conduct of the war."

Dr Owen is the Cabinet minister responsible for the day-to-day operations of Bletchley Park's successor, the Government Communications Headquarters. Any technical material that was not destroyed as the end of hostilities remains under lock and key in its registry at Cheltenham.

Dealing with the area of continuing security classification, Dr Owen said: "Other information, including details of the methods by which this material was obtained, has not been made available to the Public Record Office, the records in question having been retained under the provisions of the Official Secrets Act, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Public Records Act."

Mr Sadat says peace talks at risk

From David Watts, Cairo, Jan 13

Mr Sadat admitted to-night that the tough Israeli position over settlements in the Sinai Desert was endangering peace negotiations.

Speaking at a press conference after two hours of discussions with the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Sadat said the negotiations were in a critical phase. "It is dangerous really because of this (the settlements) and the use of self-determination for Palestinians."

He repeated that he did not see "in principle with the Israelis" the 20 settlements built in Sinai since the capture during the 1967 war. He denied earlier press reports from Israel that he was willing to consider the withdrawal of the Egyptian army from the Sinai in exchange for the signing of a peace treaty. He said that it must have been a misunderstanding with the *russicum Post* reporter who tried to get him.

Sadat said there had been no more settlements in the Sinai since the 1967 war. He emphasized that this was only one of a number of

be the last phase of any withdrawal.

Confirming the impression left by journalists when the military committee's discussions of the peace conference recessed in Cairo yesterday, that the settlements issue was in danger of blocking the way forward, Mr Sadat said he had never expected that such an issue could arise at this stage and block the momentum.

At a press briefing after the recess of the military committee talks yesterday both Mr Weizman, the Israeli Defence Minister, and General Gamasa, the Egyptian War Minister, said their best to play down the difficulties arising over the settlements, which Israel says must be an integral part of any peace treaty.

Israel demands the right not only to retain the communities but to protect them militarily.

The leaders of the delegations said that there were differences over the settlements but both said they thought that it was a gap which could be bridged over a period of time. They emphasized that this was only one of a number of

issues confronting the two sides as they grope towards the outline of a security agreement.

The Egyptian leader said that he was deeply grateful to Mr Callaghan for accepting his invitation to talks.

Noting that they had had "very fruitful" discussions about Mr Callaghan's help in the present and future stages of the peace negotiations, Mr Sadat said that they had reached "certain points of understanding". He did not elaborate.

Michael Knappe writes from Jerusalem: In his interview with the *Jerusalem Post*, Mr Sadat says that he plans to build a "triple shrine" mosque, synagogue and church on top of Jebel Musa, Mount Sinai where Moses received the Ten Commandments. He has already commissioned architects to draw up plans.

Meanwhile, Mr Weizman returned here today with some ideas to present from the Israeli-Egyptian military talks in Cairo and said that the positions of the two Governments were closer but that the road to peace was still a long one.

Photograph, page 4

Herr Strauss in new W German firetrap scandal

Bonn, Jan 13.—A new telephone tapping scandal began in West Germany today with the disclosure in a newspaper that 1976 telephone conversations involving Herr Franz Josef Strauss, the Bavarian leader, had been tapped.

An official of Herr Strauss's office, the Christian Social Union, said a record of the interception, which reached the *deutsche Zeitung*, contained false information to make Herr Strauss appear guilty of involvement in the Lockheed bribery case.

He said the wiretap concerned conversations between Herr Strauss, a former defence minister, and the chief editor of the newspaper *Bayerischer Kurier*, which Strauss publishes. A source in Bonn denied that the Government investigated the tapping.

Senator 'critical'

Washington, Jan 13.—Senator Bert Humphrey, aged 66, is a critical condition with

Mortgage rate down a point to 8½ per cent

Mortgage rates were cut yesterday by one point to 8½ per cent—their lowest level since April, 1973. This will reduce the monthly repayment on the average mortgage of £8,500 over 25 years by £578. The decision to cut the rate by a full point reflects the buoyancy of building society funds. The societies hope to maintain the rate for some time. Last year it was changed three times.

Page 17

President explains attorney's removal

President Carter conceded that a Democratic congressman under investigation for alleged financial irregularities had pressed him to speed up the replacement of the federal attorney in Philadelphia whose staff were making the inquiry. But the prosecutor's dismissal, Mr Carter insisted during hostile press questioning, had been decided on months before.

Page 4

Pakistan hint

General Zia ul-Haq, the Pakistani military ruler, indicated after talks with Mr Callaghan that Pakistan would rejoin the Commonwealth if invited by its members.

Page 5

Television engineers back to work

The 500 television engineers in dispute with the BBC are to return to normal work today after an agreement reached between the BBC and the Association of Broadcasting and Allied Staffs. Earlier the association rejected a call for an all-out strike.

Page 3

'Simplify fares' call

A simpler system of reduced rail fares should be introduced, the Central Transport Consultative Committee says. British Rail should offer standard discounts of about a third.

Page 3

Unionist ultimatum

The Official Unionists confirmed that they will take no further part in talks on interim devolution for Northern Ireland until Westminster "clarifies" its attitude towards power-sharing.

Page 2

Newham ruling

An attempt failed in the High Court to end the involvement of Labour's national executive in running the constituency party at Newham, North-East, which has decided not to reappoint Mr Prentice.

Page 2

Italy again on brink

Signor Andreotti seems about to resign as Italy's Prime Minister with the country seething over the statement from Washington expressing displeasure at the prospect of Communists in a coalition.

Page 4

Motorway petrol: The Department of Transport claimed some of the credit for cuts in motorway petrol prices

Port pay deal: London dockers have accepted a \$95 per cent pay deal.

Belgrade: Viktor Korchin, challenger for the world chess championship, will press the Soviet authorities for the release of his family from Russia.

Page 5

Police seize man as he aims pistol at Mrs Gandhi

Delhi, Jan 13.—Police arrested a man who aimed a loaded pistol at Mrs Indira Gandhi, the former Indian Prime Minister, as she arrived in a car inside the walled city of old Delhi to-night.

A police spokesman said the man, Murali Lal Batra, aged 35, of west Delhi, pulled out the pistol when Mrs Gandhi's car drew up, but was immediately grabbed by policemen. A large crowd staged a noisy

Lady Churchill's eyes used for corneal grafting

Lady Spencer-Churchill, who died in December, left her eyes for use in corneal grafting. The eyes were used for corneal grafting at the Eye Hospital, London, yesterday.

They were used on two patients the day after she died. Mr Patrick Trevor-Roper, director of the eye bank at the hospital, said the patients were essentially blind and now had the expectancy of quite good eyesight.

Commission's new call, page 5

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HOME NEWS

Ulster Unionists refuse to resume talks on devolution without British pledge of no power-sharing

From Christopher Walker
Belfast

Confirmation of the collapse of the latest British political initiative in Northern Ireland came yesterday after a meeting of leading members of the Official Unionists, the largest party in the province.

After three hours' discussions Mr Harry West, the party leader, said that there was no question of the Unionists returning to the talks on interim devolution until the British Government further clarified its attitude towards power-sharing.

To add to the bleakness of the immediate prospects in the province, his announcement coincided with a new threat from the Provisional IRA, which has been maintaining a widespread bombing campaign. Claiming responsibility for 46 bombings since January 1, the IRA said: "We mean business. This struggle will continue until the British get out of our country and give Ireland the peace she deserves."

The terrorists' latest target was the historic guildhall in Londonderry. It was badly damaged by a bomb early yesterday morning, only nine months after reopening after restoration costing £1m in the wake of a previous attack. Twelve people, including six soldiers, were injured in vicious rioting after security forces tried to clear dancers from the building after the bomb warning.

The immediate cause of the political breakdown can be attributed to Mr Lynch's radio interview last Sunday, but many political observers maintain that in the long run it was inevitable because of the irreconcilable differences between Roman Catholic and Protestant politicians.

Yesterday's decision means that the Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists will also continue to refuse negotiations with senior civil servants which had begun last month. The Social Democratic and Labour Party has not made its position public, but senior

party members have indicated that they regard the talks as a dead letter.

Mr West said last night that his condition for returning to the negotiating table was a public repudiation of the claim by Mr Lynch, Prime Minister of the Irish Republic, that the British Government regarded power-sharing as an essential ingredient in any devolved administration.

The Unionist demand has placed Westminster in an apparently insoluble dilemma: a clear-cut statement either way on power-sharing will block cooperation from politicians on one side or the other, while the ambiguous statement which is precisely why the word "power-sharing" no longer appears in ministerial speeches.

At Stormont there is considerable resentment at Mr Lynch's intervention, which is regarded as premeditated, and its results. But many Dublin politicians describe the incident as the injection of some necessary realism into the Ulster negotiations.

Food firms oppose green pound devaluation

By Hugh Clayton
Agricultural Correspondent

The largest food companies in Britain decided yesterday to campaign against a devaluation of the green pound, which would raise food prices. They will appeal to Opposition MPs not to support a Conservative motion calling for a devaluation of 7½ per cent now, with others later. The first of the series would eventually raise food prices by almost 2p in the pound.

The Conservative move has forced Mr Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, to abandon his stance against unconditional devaluation and seek approval from the Cabinet for a 5 per cent change.

Devaluation raises the sterling value of farm prices fixed for the whole EEC. It increases farmers' incomes and the raw material costs of food processing companies. The country's largest food processors, the National Food Processors' Federation, said that members opposed an immediate devaluation because it would raise shop prices.

Consumer groups also opposed immediate devaluation. Mr Maurice Stender, head of the consumer policy unit at the Government-appointed National Consumer Council, said: "Devaluation ought to come about only if it is accompanied by a fall in common EEC prices."

Letters, page 15

Harmsworth fire
Strood House, Heron's Ghyll, East Sussex, the home of Mr Vere Harmsworth, chairman of Associated Newspapers, was damaged by fire last night.



Members of Margate lifeboat crew being lowered yesterday to their boat, which was isolated in its pier station when part of the pier was wrecked in Wednesday night's storm.

Court win for Labour executive

By Craig Seaton

The National Executive of the Labour Party has kept control of the affairs of Newham, North-East London, after an unsuccessful attempt by a Labour member in the High Court yesterday to end its continued involvement in the running of the constituency party.

Mr Justice Michael Davies rejected a request by Mr Julius Lewis, a Newham, North-East, party member who helped to organize the Campaign for Representative Democracy, to lift the national executive's suspensions on the constituency party's management and executive committees and its officers.

The suspensions were imposed last October after a protracted battle between left and right to gain control of the party's affairs. The decision was made by Mr Reg Prentice, the local MP.

Since then Mr Reginald Underhill, the party's national agent, has handled the constituency party's affairs. After three days of legal argument in private the judge opened the court to reject Mr Lewis's claim, pointing out that the management committee was due to meet on Monday to prepare for an annual meeting in February and the election of new officers.

Mr Lewis, an Oxford politics researcher, had named eight left-wing members of the national executive in his action as well as Mr Ronald Hayward, the party's general secretary, and Mr Underhill. During the proceedings he dropped his action against all but the eight.

Mr Justice Davies said: "These have been selected by Mr Lewis for reasons which I am able to guess, but do not find necessary to state."

He described the state of affairs in the constituency party as "unprecedented". Mr Lewis, he said, had claimed that the national executive's action in suspending the management and executive committees was outside party rules and against natural justice.

He agreed that the constituency party was a separate organization and not just a branch of the national party, but even so it had certain obligations.

"I find that it is within the NEC's power to take the steps they have to interfere with the standing orders and rules of the constituency party," he said. "My conclusion is that the NEC really took the only possible course which it may be hoped is likely to get the constituency party back on to an even and constitutional keel."

M-way fuel cut credit is disputed

By Our Morning Correspondent

Department of Transport pressure has led to "substantial" cuts in petrol prices. Motorway service stations, Mr Horam, the Under-Secretary of State at the department, declared yesterday. He was replying to Mr Leon Brittan, Conservative MP for Cleveland and Whitby, who had complained that motorway petrol prices were higher than elsewhere.

Mr Horam said the department had been perturbed about the situation, but few garages on the motorway offered a 24-hour service.

Continued pressure from the department "allied possibly with improved support from some of the oil companies" had induced operators to make quite big reductions in some service areas where selling four-star petrol at between 75p and 79p a gallon.

But the department admitted that those prices applied to only five out of the 37 motorway service areas. True to House of Lords, the biggest operator, with 12 sites, said it was charging 82p for four-star and Granada, with 10, said its range was from 79p to 85p.

Both companies said prices had fallen recently, but they attributed that to normal commercial forces rather than government pressure.

Public spending cuts 'aimed at buying votes'

By Our Political Staff

Shadow ministers were saying yesterday that the spending increases proposed by the Government in its expenditure plans announced this week would undo all the good that had been achieved in the past year.

The achievements to get the economy back on the road by cuts in public expenditure have been forced on the Government by the International Monetary Fund rather than economic ministers imposing self-discipline, but the advantages gained could now be lost, it was said.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, Tory spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs, argues that if there is to be room for the sizable and progressive tax cuts that are urgently needed, and in order to restore a proper balance in the economy between the private and public sectors, there is no scope for any increase in planned public expenditure.

In the words of Sir Geoffrey: "The figures have been doctored in an extraordinary and unprecedented way. The doctored is designed to cover up a massive planned increase in public spending, as to avoid damage to confidence. And the spending is designed to buy votes."

Draw for Mestel and Webb in Hastings chess

From Harry Golombek

Yesterday was a free one in the Premier chess tournament at Hastings and the postponed games from round 12 and 13 and the adjourned games from round 14 were played off.

Neither of the postponed games affected the leading positions and the game from round 13 between Webb and Mestel ended in a draw after 18 moves. Mestel now needs only a half a point after his last-round game to fulfil the grandmaster norm.

The results of yesterday's play: Round 12: Webb v Mestel, 1-0; Round 13: Webb v Mestel, 1-0; Round 14: Webb v Mestel, 1-0; Round 15: Webb v Mestel, 1-0; Round 16: Webb v Mestel, 1-0; Round 17: Webb v Mestel, 1-0; Round 18: Webb v Mestel, 1-0; Round 19: Webb v Mestel, 1-0; Round 20: Webb v Mestel, 1-0; Round 21: Webb v Mestel, 1-0; Round 22: Webb v Mestel, 1-0; Round 23: Webb v Mestel, 1-0; Round 24: Webb v Mestel, 1-0; Round 25: Webb v Mestel, 1-0; Round 26: Webb v Mestel, 1-0; Round 27: Webb v Mestel, 1-0; Round 28: Webb v Mestel, 1-0; Round 29: Webb v Mestel, 1-0; Round 30: Webb v Mestel, 1-0; Round 31: Webb v Mestel, 1-0; Round 32: Webb v Mestel, 1-0; Round 33: Webb v Mestel, 1-0; Round 34: Webb v Mestel, 1-0; Round 35: Webb v Mestel, 1-0; Round 36: Webb v Mestel, 1-0; Round 37: Webb v Mestel, 1-0; Round 38: Webb v Mestel, 1-0; Round 39: Webb v Mestel, 1-0; Round 40: Webb v Mestel, 1-0; Round 41: Webb v Mestel, 1-0; Round 42: Webb v Mestel, 1-0; Round 43: Webb v Mestel, 1-0; Round 44: Webb v Mestel, 1-0; 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Consumer Credit Act, 1974, when this is fully operative and the Government intends the present action as an interim measure, recognizing that at present buyers of new cars, for example, on hire purchase, have little chance of being protected by the legislation.

They have been held outside a communist country.

Colin Stuart was released, the IDE was treated as concurred. The auctioneers filled in the entry form describing the car as sold for £410

organizations of all political persuasions, giving details of the festival and inviting them

left-wing bias in the past. They have, for example, been held outside a communist country.

asked to go to the provisional bid office where the auctioneer had spoken to Mr. Croucher and he had agreed to accept the \$410 provided that the auctioneer's commission was reduced. The car was treated as consigned. The auctioneer filled in the *entry form* describing the car as sold for \$410

It was well established that if an auctioneer sold goods by knocking down his hammer at an auction, and thereafter delivered them to the purchaser, he was liable in conversion, if the vendor had no title to the goods, both the auctioneer and the purchaser were liable, in conversion, to the

undistinguishable. His Lordship agreed with the criticisms of Turner's judgment made in *Consolidated Co. v. Currie*.

Solicitors: — Cripps, Harries, Whittall & Carter for Clegg Fisher & Co., Addlestone; H. B. Winstanley & Pugh, Southampton.

When the bill is fully adopted, and the Government intends to present action as an interim measure, recognizing that at present buyers of new cars, for example, on hire purchase, are little chance of being protected by the legislation.

Not even before, Mr Charles Clarke, former president of the National Union of Students and now Britain's representative on the fascist's permanent organizing committee, said yesterday.

Among groups that are ex-

cluded from the Student Movement.

Letters are being sent to about four hundred youth organizations of all political persuasions, giving details of the festival and inviting them

Christian Movement.

of different nations.

a left-wing bias.

Only twice, for example, have they been held out of communist country.

They will be replaced by the Consumer Credit Act, 1974, when this is fully operating and the Government intend the present action as an interim measure, recognizing that present buyers of new cars, for example, on hire purchase have little chance of being protected by the legislation.

Heaven in July, will influence a wider cross-section of youth than ever before, Mr Charles Clarke, former president of the National Union of Students, told Britain's representative on the new permanent organizing committee, said yesterday.

Among groups that are expected to be invited to the festival are the Girl Guides, the Young Conservative Organization and the Student Christian Movement.

Posters are being sent to about four hundred youth organizations of all political persuasions, giving details of the festival and inviting them

World War with the aim of celebrating the victory and of promoting a standing between the two sides of the divisions, have a left-wing bias in the. Only twice, for example, they been held outside a communist country.

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A golden retriever
quarantine in Alderbury
showing symptoms
with rabies has been
Barbican travel
Barbican Underground
is to stay open per
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Barbican travel
Barbican Underground station is to stay open permanently. Saturdays, London Transport announced.

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and thereafter delivered to the purchaser, although by an agent, if the vendor is liable to the goods, both as owner and the purchaser is in conversion to the

and thereafter delivered to the purchaser, although only an agent, if the vendor has no title to the goods, both the vendor and the purchaser are, in consequence, to the

Hotkey made in Con-
Co v. Curtis.
rs: Cripps, Harries,
Carter for Clive Fisher
diestone; Hephherd, Win-
Pugh, Southampton.

WEST EUROPE

Resignation of Signor Andreotti seems imminent with Italians accusing America of interference

Rome, Jan 13.—The resignation of Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Prime Minister, appeared imminent today as angry Communists accused the United States of interfering in Italian politics.

Among the critics of the statement made yesterday by the American State Department opposing Communists entering a new coalition was Signor Arnaldo Forlani, the Foreign Minister. Such statements were no help in disentangling our situation.

The Ura came under heavy pressure and the Bank of Italy was forced to intervene to support the currency with sales of dollars estimated by financial sources at between \$50m (about £25m) and \$100m.

Signor Andreotti, who has headed a minority Christian Democratic Government for 17 months with the tacit support of five parties including the Communists, convened meetings with the parties' parliamentary leaders for tomorrow.

Leaders of the Communist, Socialist and Republican parties, which have been calling for a multi-party emergency government, were expected to withdraw their support and the Prime Minister was expected to resign—probably on Monday.

The Christian Democrats rejected the call for an emergency government, offering instead to draw up new parliamentary agreements expanding a six-party pact signed last July.

The Communists reacted by announcing today a nationwide campaign to support their own plan. They also denounced the strong Washington statement that the United States "would like to see Communist influence in any West European country reduced."

L'Unita, the Communist Party newspaper, said this was an attempt to influence the situation in our country, in contrast to the principle of non-interference so often proclaimed by President Carter.

Mr. Richard Gardner, the United States Ambassador, returned today from his talks with the President in Washington and said the statement "explains our position very clearly for those who want to hear."

The Christian Democratic Party commented: "Our view remains that of rejecting any interference and at the same time paying attention to the concerns of an ally to which we are linked by ties of friendship and common interest."

But not Christian Democratic deputy disagreed. Signor Carlo Fracanzani called the Washington statement "a grave and inadmissible interference in our internal affairs."

Political analysts said Signor Andreotti might try to form a new government on the basis of a wider parliamentary pact with other parties—including the Communists—to deal with the sagging economy, extremist violence and other major issues.

But it was not clear if the Communists, having announced their nationwide campaign, would be prepared to settle for much less than their goal of cabinet posts.

If both sides remained firm, the analysts said, it was likely that President Leone would dissolve Parliament and order an early general election.—Reuter.

Jan Murray writes from Paris: In the view of the French Foreign Ministry there is nothing abnormal in the United States, in its role as an ally, putting out an opinion on the eventual participation of Communists in Western governments. The American declaration, it was pointed out, made it clear that the sovereignty of the countries concerned was recognized.

Candidate ranks swell for French election

From Ian Murray

Paris, Jan 13.—The breakdown of the electoral pact between the parties forming the government majority, and the failure of Communists and Socialists to agree on a common programme, means that the French voter will confront a record number of first-ballot candidates in the March general elections.

The inevitable splitting of the vote makes the already uncertain election result even more difficult to forecast.

The number of candidates has been growing over the years. In 1968 there were 2,267 and in the last election, in 1974, there were 3,140, which is roughly even for each constituency.

While this may sit well with President Giscard d'Estaing's firm belief in "plurism," the French government, the multiplicity of candidates nevertheless poses real electoral problems for both left and right.

Now that the Gaullists have torn up the majority coalition pact and decided to fight every seat, they will clearly be unlikely to stand aside in the second round of

the election for any major candidate polling fewer votes.

The Communists are now going to stand in all constituencies, while further to the left organizations such as the Communist League are putting up 250 candidates.

There are fringe groups on both left and right putting up candidates, too. Royalists, Catholics, the National Front, the French Common Sense Union and the Workers' Struggle Movement, to name but a few. The ecologists as well, after their success in last year's municipal elections will be there in strength.

Most of the fringe groups will poll only few votes but in some cases these could stop the main candidates from getting the 12.5 per cent they need to enter the second round.

Faced with this growing confusion, M. Francois Mitterand, the Socialist leader, said today that his party could expect to win 160 seats and might even double its previous 92 seats.

M. Georges Marchais, the Communist leader, attacked the Socialists for letting down the hopes of the left, and said that neither their party nor his could win the election on its own.

European group settles uranium deal with Brazil

From Our Correspondent

Amsterdam, Jan 13.—Britain, Holland and West Germany have reached agreement with Brazil on the terms under which enriched uranium will be produced for that country, the Dutch Foreign Ministry announced today.

The three European nations have a consortium, Urenco, which operates an uranium enrichment plant in the Dutch town of Almelo.

Terms of the agreement have not yet been made public, although they do fall within the guidelines announced in Washington yesterday on behalf of the so-called "Suppliers' Club" of nuclear exporters.

Brazil is not a signatory to the non-proliferation treaty, so other guarantees were needed from Brazil that the enriched uranium would not be used for military purposes.

Papers publish again

Paris, Jan 13.—Unions and management of La Figaro and France Soir have agreed to begin a study of merging the newspapers' administrative staff and shifting the presses outside Paris. Both papers, which did not publish yesterday, appeared normally today.

Herr Schmidt seeks fairer deal for German fisherman

From Our Own Correspondent
Bonn, Jan 13.—Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, has written to Mr. Roy Jenkins, President of the European Commission, pressing urgently for a Community agreement on fishing rights.

The West German fishing industry has been severely hit by the extension by EEC countries of their fishing limits to 200 miles, excluding West German fishermen from large areas in the North Sea and North-East Atlantic.

Spain destroys secret police files

Madrid, Jan 13.—The Spanish Government today ordered the destruction of police files on thousands of politicians and trade unionists who were considered state enemies by General Franco.

An order published by the Official Gazette said such records were no longer of any "administrative use". The police, the Interior Ministry and the Ministry of Culture were instructed to go through the files and keep only those of "historical" value.

Victim of IRA entering Dutch politics

Arnhem, Jan 13.—Dr. Tiede Herrema, the Dutch business man who was abducted in 1976 by the IRA from a Dutch-owned factory in the Irish Republic, is entering politics.

He is a candidate for the Dutch Liberal Party in the municipal council elections soon to be held in his home town of Arnhem.—AP.

French Navy ship rescued in storm off Brittany

Brest, Jan 13.—A French Navy escort vessel, the Duperre, was pulled off by a tug after it ran aground in a storm off Brittany last night. Coastguards took off the 244 crewmen but left a skeleton crew on board.

A Navy spokesman said the tug was towing the ship into Brest.

Madrid: Gales, torrential rain and heavy snow for the second consecutive day paralysed almost all northern Spain today. Many airports were closed.

Traffic police said 1,500 motorists spent last night trapped by a snowdrift on a

Italian terror gang shoot telephone chief

Rome, Jan 13.—Left-wing terrorists today shot and wounded a senior executive of the Italian state telephone company here.

He was the third businessman to be shot this year by members of extreme left-wing groups.

Signor Lello De Rosa, aged 54, was shot several times in the legs outside his house.

An anonymous caller to a news agency later claimed the shooting on behalf of the Red Brigades.—Reuter.

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OVERSEAS

Mr Carter entangled in attorney's dismissal

From David Cross

Washington, Jan 13.—President Carter and his Attorney General, Mr. Griffin Bell, have become personally involved in a controversy involving the dismissal of a Republican prosecutor who is reported to be investigating Democratic Congressman for alleged financial irregularities.

Until yesterday, a spirited campaign to keep Mr. David Marston, the federal attorney in Philadelphia, in his post had been mostly limited to local supporters. They have been inundating the White House with telephone calls protesting against his dismissal.

But at a televised press conference here yesterday the issue came to national prominence when Mr. Carter was subjected to hostile questions from reporters. He conceded that Mr. Joshua Eilberg, a Democratic Congressman from Pennsylvania, had been in touch with him and wanted the "replacement process to be expedited."

According to the Philadelphia Inquirer newspaper, Mr. Eilberg is being investigated by Mr. Marston's staff over alleged financial irregularities in a hospital project.

Mr. Carter denied that pressure from Mr. Eilberg had any connection with Mr. Marston's impending departure. The decision to replace him had been taken months ago, the President maintained.

Both he and Mr. Bell, at a subsequent press conference, insisted that they knew nothing about Mr. Marston's reported investigation of Mr. Eilberg's alleged misconduct when they discussed the federal attorney's future last year.

The decision to replace Mr. Marston is causing a furor principally because it appears to breach a campaign promise by Mr. Carter to appoint all federal prosecutors on the basis of merit, not politics. Predictably, the Republicans are incensed at the decision to dismiss Mr. Marston, who was appointed by former President Ford shortly before he left office.

Supporters of Mr. Marston maintain that he is one of the best attorneys they have ever had. Over the past year he has successfully prosecuted some of the most prominent and powerful Democratic figures in the state.

Voters may face choice between masters of media 'America's toughest cop' has eye on California governor's job

From David Davis

Los Angeles, Jan 13.—When Mr. Jerry Brown, California's bachelor Governor, complained recently that the Los Angeles police were investigating his friend Linda Ronstadt, the pop singer, Mr. Edward Davis, the police chief, sent a note to Mr. Brown.

It said: "I'm not investigating Linda. She just isn't my type. I'm glad to hear, however, that you have a girl friend. I'm sure your parents are pleased. Also, I think it's very nice."

The letter was the first shot in a battle between Mr. Davis, who retires this weekend at the age of 61, and Mr. Brown, for votes in this year's election for governor.

Before Mr. Davis can face Mr. Brown in the election, however, he has first to win the Republican Party's nomination to June. To do that he will have to defeat Mr. Evelle Younger, the state Attorney General. Mr. Younger is the Republican frontrunner, but Mr. Davis describes him as "about as exciting as a mashed potato sandwich."

A Davis-Brown confrontation would be most interesting because they have at least one thing in common. They are both masters in manipulating the media and in California.

Calling the state "a rotten cesspool," he jokes about



Mr. Edward Davis: a label to live up to.

with a population of 22 million, that frequently means victory.

Mr. Davis's political philosophy is to the right of Mr. Ronald Reagan, the former Governor, and he accuses the Brown administration of being responsible for everything he believes to be wrong in California today, from permissive judges to the predominance of people in the state with "unusual sexual habits." His image as "America's toughest cop" has been carefully nurtured.

Calling the state "a rotten cesspool," he jokes about

Dominant army role sought for guerrillas

From Our Correspondent

Salisbury, Jan 13.—The United African N. Council of Bishop Abel, rewa believes the guerrillas should constitute the strength of the new Zim national army, according to David Mukome, the publicity secretary, in a recent today on the progress of the internal settlement.

He said that after the election of a parliament under a majority rule government, what blocking powers would be generated and settled, the next matter to be the question of the forces.

The future of the army the civil service was like take some time to resolve. The UANC wanted to ensure that whatever decision reached was in the best interests of Zimbabwe as a Mr. Mukome said.

He thought the talks progressed reasonably well, siding the importance of matters involved. The progress was a positive one, from minority to majority was a need to end the conflict. But despite party's desire to see the end, it was not prepared to accept an armistice, Mr. Mukome said.

Mr. John Smith, the Secretary for Africa Education, today that guerrilla activists the tribal trust lands had to the closure of 436 primary schools, affecting some 85 pupils and 2,500 teachers, 1 January, 1977. He said guerrillas had burnt schools in tribal trust lands, humiliated teachers and drove pupils from their classrooms.

A dawn to dusk curfew been imposed on the tribal trust lands just north Salisbury. A 15-year-old schoolboy was murdered guerrillas near the reserve week. A police spokesman the order comes into effect from midnight.

Mr. Roger Hawkins, Minister of Defence and Civilian Operations, said that guerrilla atrocities in tribal trust lands had helped recruit to the army, police, gendarmerie and other security units.

Commenting on the war situation, Mr. Hawkins said: "I am holding our position despite problems that arise with it."

Two members of the security forces have been killed. They were Flight Sergeant Hen Javie, aged 30, and Flt Sergeant Alexander Fleming, aged 23, who were married. Two guerrillas have been killed by security forces.

Royal treasures lose out to US football

From Michael Leppman

New York, Jan 13.—The National Broadcasting Company (NBC) has abandoned a plan to show a two-hour BBC programme about Britain's royal treasures this Sunday, at the same time as a rival network is showing the Super Bowl football final.

Since about 80 per cent of viewers are likely to watch the game, which is of the same importance here as the FA Cup Final, the BBC film would have gained abysmal ratings.

The film is a compendium of highlights of the Royal Heritage series shown in Britain last year. It is called Treasures of the British Crown.

A report in The New York Times today says that it is not being shown against the Super Bowl because such "sacred scheduling" would have been insulting to Britain.

Mr. George Hoover, a vice-president of NBC, said today that it was not as simple as that. "We think it's a terrific programme. We would like to give it as much exposure as possible." But many people who would want to watch would miss the Super Bowl.

The result of this desire not to waste the royal programme on a small audience is that it will have to wait until much later this year for a screening.

Mail group denies 'Trib' deal

From Our Own Correspondent

New York, Jan 13.—Mr. Vere Harmsworth, chairman of Associated Newspapers, said here today that he did not think he would be buying The Trib, New York's new morning newspaper. Rumours that Associated, which publishes the Daily Mail and the Evening News in London, were interested in the purchase were rife yesterday.

Mr. Harmsworth and Mr. Michael Shields, managing director of Associated, did have discussions yesterday with Mr. Leonard Saffir, The Trib's publisher. The lack of any announcement afterwards, despite speculation that there had been disagreement on a price.

Mr. Harmsworth indicated that he had made no firm offer for the paper, whose launching cost was about \$4m (£2m). "How do you make an offer for something which has no value?" he said. "It's only been going on for a few days. I think they're going on on their own."

Mr. Saffir says that about 90 per cent of The Trib's 260,000 daily print run is being sold.

At least 2,000 Chileans arrested in Argentina

Buenos Aires, Jan 13.—At least 2,000 Chilean citizens were arrested yesterday by security forces in Argentina, it is reported here.

There was no official explanation for the arrests, which were concentrated in the southern Argentine province of Chubut. However, there is tension between Chile and Argentina over three disputed islands south of the Beagle Channel.

Chubut province borders Chile, and many Chileans have lived for years in slums on the outskirts of towns there without ever going through the legal formalities required by the Argentine authorities for foreign residents.

At least 2,000 Chileans arrested in Argentina

Newspapers reported the Joint Navy, Army and police patrols rounded up 145 Chileans without papers in the town of Trelew and another 60 in Comodoro Rivadavia.

In Mar del Plata, Captain Gueller Allara, the Foreign Ministry under-secretary, denied rumours that Argentina would reject the arbitration award granting Chile the islands.

However, the decision could be declared invalid because of its "many errors and defects," he added.

He said it created a problem of "national dignity" and "the extension of Chile to the Atlantic would be very significant."—Agence France-Press.

Mr Weizman, the Israeli Defence Minister, makes friends with an Egyptian girl during a visit to the Pyramids yesterday.

In brief

Father and son killed by bomb

Tel Aviv, Jan 13.—A father and son were killed today when a terrorist bomb exploded after the boy found it in an empty lot where they were gathering grass for their horse.

Police said they were Salah Abdel Khader, aged 54, and his son Abed, aged 12, of Jaffa. Another son, aged nine, escaped injury.—AP.

Terrorist executed

Paris, Jan 13.—Vladimir Shvynov, a 42-year-old Georgian national, has been executed by a Soviet firing squad after being sentenced to death for bomb attacks in Tbilisi, a Paris committee monitoring the application of the Helsinki agreement stated.

Hot property

Perth, Jan 13.—A thief in Western Australia chose the hottest day ever recorded in the city—113 degrees Fahrenheit—to steal a \$A6,000 (£2,900) mink coat.

Sun Life may stay

Ottawa, Jan 13.—Canada's biggest insurance company, Sun Life, has agreed to review its plan to move its head office from Montreal because of Quebec's French-language policies.

Antarctic airlift

Canberra, Jan 13.—The United States and Russia have joined forces to airlift Mr. Colin Perger, a sick Australian radio technician, from the Antarctic to New Zealand for treatment.

Swiss court bombed

Berne, Jan 13.—A bomb thrown from the street caused extensive damage last night to the Supreme Court building of the Swiss canon of Berne.

E German attack under scrutiny

From Gretel Spitzer in Berlin

and Patricia Clough in Bonn, Jan 13.—Germans on both sides of the border are trying to divine the significance and discover the authors of the anonymous manifesto in which the East German regime has been strongly attacked, apparently from the inside.

If the manifesto is genuine—and most informed opinion in the West believes that it is—the document would indicate the existence of the first opposition group as opposed to individual dissidents, in East Germany in recent years.

The authors call themselves the Federation of Democratic Communists of Germany. Der Spiegel news magazine, which published the document, claims that they are high and middle-ranking officials in the East German Communist Party, working in secret cells.

The manifesto rejects the one-party system and Soviet domination, and calls for an independent judiciary and Parliament. It goes on to attack leading figures in office, accusing them by name of corruption, abuse of office and "scandalous parasitism."

East Germany reacted with unusual sharpness, closing Der Spiegel's East Berlin office despite an agreement guaranteeing West German correspondents freedom of movement.

In West Berlin, in particular, this nervous reaction is seen as prompted by a deep sense of insecurity. The picture painted of life in East Germany, with enforced "participation" in "voluntary" political activities, obscure functions, an ever-spreading state apparatus and the privileges of party officials, is thought to have struck a raw nerve with the Government there sharply aware that its population is dissatisfied.

The publication of the document is expected to strengthen

British woman held in Athens on drug charge

Athens, Jan 13.—Miss Denise-Anne Nash, aged 25, of Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, was remanded in custody today on charges of illegal possession, sale and smuggling of drugs into Greece, a police spokesman said here.

She was arrested in her flat in Glyfiss suburb. The police alleged that she was trying to sell a quantity of heroin to a former Greek air stewardess.

The police said Miss Nash arrived in Greece in December 37, grams of heroin were found in her possession. She was being detained in Korydallos prison, near Piraeus, pending trial.—Reuter.

Protesters held as Shah's wife visits New York

New York, Jan 13.—Several people were arrested yesterday as hundreds demonstrated against the visit of Empress Farah of Iran to New York and supporters of the Shah held a counter-demonstration.

Police said six men and two women opposing the visit were arrested on charges of criminal trespass and disorderly conduct after they entered the lobby of the New York Hilton, where the Empress was the guest at a dinner given by the Asia Society. There was no violence.

Several hundred police officers, including some on horses, kept order outside the hotel.

About 500 protesters, most

President writes to thank his interpreter

Washington, Jan 13.—President Carter has sent a handwritten note of thanks to Mr. Steven Seymour, the interpreter who gave an unfortunate translation to make of Mr. Carter's remarks at Warsaw airport on December 29.

"Don't let the exaggerated criticisms disturb you," Mr. Carter wrote. "Those who analysed your translation say the errors were minor. You did a superb job. I am proud of your translation in a difficult situation."—New York Times News Service.

Donald Duck in disgrace

Helsinki, Jan 13.—The Youth Board here has ruled that Donald Duck is not suitable reading for children and has cancelled library subscriptions to the comic.

The board found that Donald was "unduly bourgeois." It also complained of pictures of naked ducks, sales of incomplete families, harmful attitudes towards children and Donald's common-law marriage.—Agence France-Press.

Girls' death leap

Osaka, Jan 13.—Two 13-year-old schoolgirls jumped to their deaths together from the roof of a 10-storey block of flats. The classmates left suicide notes, saying: "Goodbye everyone. Do not grieve." Their motive was not known.

Correspondence From Richard Wigg
 7. Jan 13
 12. Jan 13

Mrs Gandhi

Delhi, Jan 13.—Mrs Gandhi, the former Prime Minister, has

30,
exand.

show today in time to be seen
by Mr. Callahan as he read

'Friendship'

Bangkok, Jan 13.—For the first time since the conflict

100

NOISE LIMITS

From Our Own Correspondent

Concorde at Kennedy which prompted a total of 349 complaints from the public. Over the

Pornographer

SECRET



Seoul, Jan 13.—After

44 FEB 1951

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Jan 13

LEGAY NOTICES

By Our Foreign Staff
The murder of Dr. Red

to, please see the fact.

Moscow, Jan 13.—Four cos-

Manila, Jan. 13.—The United State Navy has sent a ship and violation of Vietnam's territorial waters.

EDUCATIONAL

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SPORT

Cricket

England suffer first tour defeat at hands of Mohsin and Sarfraz

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Lahore, Jan 13

The England cricketers suffered the first defeat of their tour here today, losing the third and last of a one-day "international" by 56 runs. Bowled 153 to win, they were bowled out in the thirty-second of their thirty-five overs for 122. Having lost the one-day game at Sahiwal off the last ball of the match, and that at Sialkot only narrowly, Pakistan were due for a victory and it was good to see them winning with such a young side.

The highlight of the day, socially anyway, was the visit this morning, with all the trappings, of the country's chief martial law administrator, and Jim Callaghan. They stayed for 70 minutes, sitting for a while in light rain, which was about the only emergency not to have been allowed for. Their best entertainment came from Mirand and Mohsin Khan in a fifth wicket partnership of 59.

Mohsin was still there in the early afternoon, when the British Prime Minister's V.I.P. flew over the ground bound for Aswan. Mirand was playing well at the start of Pakistan's innings, and Mirand brought a sparkle to the proceedings, as he usually does, but the innings of the day was Mohsin's, improbable as it may seem.

The cricketer he keeps reminding me of, both in the field and at the wicket, is Paul Sheahan, who played a similar style for Australia not so long ago. After his 97 not out in Bahawalpur and 51 not out today, Mohsin seems sure to play in Karachi, unless he is kept out by one of the Pakistan Tackler players, whose movements are a matter still of pure conjecture.

With 46 runs coming off the last five overs of Pakistan's innings, when Hasan Jamil was adding a few lusty blows to Mohsin's more elegant ones, England were left 20 scores at four and a half runs an over to win. After five overs they were 15 for two, Boycott and Brearley having been dismissed. Pakistan's bowler, who makes something of a habit of dismissing Boycott, had also had him missed at slip of the first ball of England's innings.

Only when Randall and Roope were adding 48 for the fifth wicket did England look anything like they might win. Pakistan employed two leg spin bowlers, against the common trend, and it was one of these, Wasim Raja, who took three wickets and by bowling Roope with a brilliant piece of fielding in the covers, he finished England off.

The award for the best bowler went—yes, you have guessed it—to Sarfraz, although his "apology" to the nation for his second innings has yet to be published. It is said to have made it, and he must now be doubly pleased that he did.

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Gaekwad comes in and spin bowlers go out

Newcastle, Jan 13.—Arunnath Gaekwad, who joined the Indian cricket team in Australia as a replacement for the injured Sunil Gavaskar, was named as the first batsman to go in for India in the first Test match, which will be played here tomorrow. Gavaskar, who has been named as the first batsman to go in for India in the first Test match, which will be played here tomorrow.

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ICC to decide on February 1 whether to appeal

Jack Bailey, the secretary of the International Cricket Conference, announced yesterday that there would be a special meeting at Lord's on February 1. The conference has to decide whether to appeal to the International Cricket Council (ICC) against the decision of the England Cricket Board to allow the Pakistan team to play in the first Test match.

Although the Conference managed to present a united front to Mr. Packer last year, a split has developed since the meeting at Lord's. Pakistan have recalled three of Mr. Packer's players—Mushaq, Zaheer, and Imran—and also the captain, Imran Khan, who has been named as the first batsman to go in for India in the first Test match.

On the other hand, the Australian selectors are unlikely to consider an appeal to the ICC against the decision of the England Cricket Board to allow the Pakistan team to play in the first Test match.

When the decision of the selection board was announced shortly after the start of the tour, the appointment needed his approval under the terms of the Royal Charter establishing the Sports Council.

Mr. Howell said in a Commons written reply that he had received "overwhelming support" for his decision.

He added that he had resolved to discuss the matter with the Sports Council, which is the body responsible for the selection of the team.

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England hopes fade in semi-final rounds

By Richard Streeton, 20, of Middleborough, produced some of the best table tennis of her career at Brighton yesterday before being beaten in the semi-final round of the English open championships, sponsored by Norwich Union. Miss Knight was eliminated by a Yugoslav, Erzsébet Palatins, who won 2-1, 11-10, 11-10.

Miss Palatins lost the first game in an exchange of free hitting and spin variations which promised a close contest. The longer the match progressed, the more the unforced errors crept into Miss Knight's play. The Yugoslav, palatins, worked away like the proverbial rabbit in the hutch at Miss Knight's backhand. Unable to position herself for her favourite forehand, Miss Knight struggled in the later stages and was seldom allowed to dictate matters. The match ended in a 2-1 victory for Chu Hsiang-Yun, who beat her younger compatriot, Ho Tse-Ping.

Miss Knight, who won the title last year in a weak field, however, who she won in five hard-fought games, 3-2, 11-10, 11-10, 11-10, 11-10.

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Table tennis



Carol Knight: best performance of her career.

English hopes fade in semi-final rounds

By Richard Streeton, 20, of Middleborough, produced some of the best table tennis of her career at Brighton yesterday before being beaten in the semi-final round of the English open championships, sponsored by Norwich Union. Miss Knight was eliminated by a Yugoslav, Erzsébet Palatins, who won 2-1, 11-10, 11-10.

Miss Palatins lost the first game in an exchange of free hitting and spin variations which promised a close contest. The longer the match progressed, the more the unforced errors crept into Miss Knight's play. The Yugoslav, palatins, worked away like the proverbial rabbit in the hutch at Miss Knight's backhand. Unable to position herself for her favourite forehand, Miss Knight struggled in the later stages and was seldom allowed to dictate matters. The match ended in a 2-1 victory for Chu Hsiang-Yun, who beat her younger compatriot, Ho Tse-Ping.

Miss Knight, who won the title last year in a weak field, however, who she won in five hard-fought games, 3-2, 11-10, 11-10, 11-10, 11-10.

On the other hand, the Australian selectors are unlikely to consider an appeal to the ICC against the decision of the England Cricket Board to allow the Pakistan team to play in the first Test match.

When the decision of the selection board was announced shortly after the start of the tour, the appointment needed his approval under the terms of the Royal Charter establishing the Sports Council.

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Football

Clough returns to old home with a new, more versatile family

By Norman Fox, Football Correspondent

Brian Clough, returning today to Derby County, with Nottingham Forest, who he has taken 12 points and nine places above his former champions, once remarked that in his years he wanted an accumulation of everything that made the world tick. "You name it, I want it," he said, and though this was in the days when he commented on everything from "cloggers" to politics, to judge by his latest products the view holds good.

Five years ago he drew the line at "savage players" but admitted biding it round the "talented cloggers" whose strength could be valuable if skill was present. Certainly the Forest team cannot be considered to fit a recognized "type", which could be why the high wing of their success is not widely understood.

If pressed, those players who were at Derby and have followed Clough and Peter Taylor to Forest will say that the present team are not yet in the class of the Derby championship winning side of 1972. The upheavals since Mr Clough's departure in 1973 have led to many changes at the Baseball Ground, especially

recently under Tommy Docherty, who would admit to having some way to go before being satisfied. Even so, today's match has a special edge, though Mr Clough denies it. The teams last met in August at Nottingham when Forest won 3-0.

Even in the past few days Mr Docherty has spent £166,000 on improving the Derby defence which has suffered from uncertainty over McFarland who has had a succession of leg injuries. He has not overcome difficulties in that area of the team, unlike Daniel, who has been a troublemaker since he joined from Queen's Park Rangers. It is not yet certain whether Powell or Daniel will be today's central defender. It is known, however, that the newcomer, Buckley, from Luton Town, will be one of the three.

Two former Derby players, McConville and Gemmill, will be returning with Forest and Mr Clough makes his familiar statement that the team will be unchanged. In the circumstances, the more settled and further advanced Forest should retain their five points lead over Everton who play Aston Villa, the club they so capably dismissed from the FA Cup.

Liverpool's elimination from the cup leaves them attempting to retain the championship title with a team that has been under a heavy hammer since the purchase of the club by John Smith. Their purchase of the club, however, was a sound decision, but on recent evidence it is the defence that needs attention. Liverpool go to West Bromwich Albion not knowing whether Jones has recovered from a knee injury. If necessary, Hughes will again move to the back.

In trying to play down the personal importance of the game, Derby, Mr Clough yesterday met Powell that if winning next Saturday's match with Arsenal was more significant, Arsenal could expect a higher compliment. It is day they have a special reason for hoping to beat Wolverhampton Wanderers at Highbury because this is the team they must face if they are to win the FA Cup.

Two Arsenal have been given confidence through stability. In light of their last nine matches they have been unchanged. How different from poor Leicester City bottom of the table and still struggling with injuries. Dave Hughes and Wolves are unable to play at Bristol City. Frank McLintock, their inexperienced manager, sounded disillusioned. "Everything seems against me"

Talks likely on McQueen

Manchester United could open talks with Leeds United for Scotland's centre half, Gordon McQueen, when the Magpies return from Ipswich this weekend.

David Sexton, their manager, said: "There will be no transfer activity from here until after the weekend, and even if I was interested in or wanted to buy a player, I would not be prepared to say so."

The club chairman, Louis Edwards, said: "I shall be talking to Dave about McQueen, but there is no rush. Our fans deserve the best and we can afford the high fee. But we also have a duty not to throw money away."

Mr Sexton quashed rumours that he could offer Brian Greenhoff, a defender, to Arsenal, as he said: "Brian Greenhoff is a valuable member of my first team squad, and I don't want to leave Old Trafford."

Manchester United paid Leeds £230,000 for Joe Jordan last season. McQueen's fee could be over £400,000.

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Colclough joins the England party

By Peter West, Rugby Correspondent

Maurice Colclough, the lock forward who has been in the England trial last week, has been added to the list of travelling reserves for the international against France at Paris on Saturday. He missed England's training last Sunday morning, having been released to play in an international game for his French club, Angoulême. But, freed by them, he was able to join the England party that gathered at Brighton Abbey last evening for two further days of preparation.

Tony Nery, England's reserve flanker for Paris, has gone down with a knee injury and Bisham Abbas has gone to Bob Mordell, of Rosslyn Park. Brian Cotton, who missed last week's trial with a cold, and the new full back, David Caplan, who retired during the course of it with a minor back strain, have both been reported fit for training.

The significance of Colclough's presence will not be lost on Nigel Horton, whose form in the trial gave little hint that he is capable of scaling heights at Paris. The heights he achieved against them at Twickenham last February. That performance surely was the high point of his career. But he has been a new life and a new

club stand-off is Leslie Cusworth, who followed up a sparkling performance for North Midlands in the county final with a reliable report, though such as against Llanelli. If England's first system were to start

By Our Racing Staff.
12.45 Dunmarc. 1.15 Sweet Jos. 1.45 NETHERTON is specially recommended. 2.15 Alpenstock. 2.45 Broncho II. 3.15 Carrigbeg Prince.
By Our Newmarket Correspondent
1.15 Sweet Joe. 1.45 Pollerton.

Saturday Review

What should they know of England?

by
Michael Holroyd

In foreign lands it is the obvious that continually foxes us. Before my first visit to New York in 1968 I had read a good deal about it, but nothing prepared me for the belated smoke that rises through holes in the street as if from an inferno below; or for the electric shocks that stung me each time I tried to open a door, switch on a light, tactfully stroke a cat.

I had been dreadfully spoilt on that first visit. At intervals the telephone would sing out, and there was my friendly publisher with his list of friendly questions. What about firing an extra lunch into my hectic schedule? Could I, in the next 10 days or so, manage to sign one copy of my book? How was I weathering the drastic strain? Between the calls I slept, went for walks, saw a few films, wrote letters, slept again. In restaurants I was given drinks looking like heavy water or tropical salads. Each day I was positively required to do nothing. If I murmured something practical about sales or promotion, I was stared at as if I had lapsed into bad taste. It was a time of relative good will, and the world was full of gentlemen who had been told (by whom I cannot imagine) that I was a best-seller.

When people spoke of the "excitement" of New York, I felt oppressed. In my three weeks there I clocked more hours of unvarnished sleep than anywhere else in the world. No wonder I enjoyed the place so much. A gentle security wrapped me round. Had I missed something? Was my experience incomplete?

But the next two visits had reinforced my conclusion. New York is a sleepy place, and curiously old-fashioned. I struggled to keep awake, for there was research to do and I was on my own. No publisher likes to see his author at work. On the first sight is too painful. That Ancient Mariner monologue, those glazed red eyes like cocktail cherries, the white complexion, raked figure make an awful spectacle. The sight is too painful. That Ancient Mariner monologue, those glazed red eyes like cocktail cherries, the white complexion, raked figure make an awful spectacle. The sight is too painful. That Ancient Mariner monologue, those glazed red eyes like cocktail cherries, the white complexion, raked figure make an awful spectacle.

My non-existence is not principally as a biographer but as a pedestrian. American pedestrians come in two classes: the quick and the dead. The former can be seen in white shorts and T-shirts; they jog, are often bald and coated (like race horses) with sweat. The second category appears to take care of the rest. In Washington DC almost the only pedestrians seem to be policemen. They are fitted with whistles and sound like a vigorous down chorus. I remember, too, in southern Illinois my excitement, like Robinson Crusoe, at spotting

When I arrived this last time in New York, I telephoned my publisher and gave my name.

"How do you spell it?" a cigarette voice asked. I explained. "WHY DEE?" echoed the voice, and uttered a long pause.

To myself I have always been modestly well-known. But the further I travel from Yorkshire (where I have never lived) the deeper is the bewilderment provoked by my north-country name. There are optimists who hope for Hollywood or Polaris; while among literati I have been merged with David Hockney. On his account I have been so grossly flattered, cut so abruptly dead, that I shall shortly form a charity in which people who get us wrong will be pressed to contribute half and half.

In America my identity comes under serious siege. My publisher's pause, pregnant with my non-existence, reminded me of this; and a party, at which I had met William Buckley Jr., positively asserted it. William Buckley had demanded to be introduced to me. After his long handshake, my whole body ached with his committed praise of my work. I felt myself moving to the right. On leaving the party he again sought me out, and I braced myself for further eulogiums. "Well," he cried, "keep those novels rolling out and..." with just a flicker of hesitation.

Those short stories? My non-existence is not principally as a biographer but as a pedestrian. American pedestrians come in two classes: the quick and the dead. The former can be seen in white shorts and T-shirts; they jog, are often bald and coated (like race horses) with sweat. The second category appears to take care of the rest. In Washington DC almost the only pedestrians seem to be policemen. They are fitted with whistles and sound like a vigorous down chorus. I remember, too, in southern Illinois my excitement, like Robinson Crusoe, at spotting

a shoe-print in the snow, though it was only my own print from the previous week. At all times, everywhere, the streets are alive with cars that have evolved the independent life of a superior breed. The attitude towards pedestrians varies from place to place. In Austin, Texas, they are so much feared that people keep troupes of dogs to drive them off in case they decide to attack. But any car that happens to nudge one is liable to atrocious penalties, for, as in some game reserve, the authorities are anxious for them not to become extinct. Elsewhere—Beverly Hills, for instance—pedestrians are treated more abruptly and may be picked up on suspicion of walking with intent. Many of the sidewalks along which one hopefully sets out lead nowhere, abandoning one on some island encircled by a growing herd of wheeled monsters. It is this architecture, rather than any kind of romance of the street, that accounts for the diminishing number of actual people.

It was as a self-employed, foreign pedestrian that my extinction became almost complete. On my first day I went into a bank and presented them with all the money I had. It was, I see now, a pornographic scene—the naked notes spilling out from my clothing, lying exposed on the counter for all to see. They glared at me; eyebrows thickened; hands went to revolvers. "Whose is it?" they asked. New York is rich. You have only to hear the size of her overdraft to know just how rich. But no one ever carries money; not too much money, anyway. Money is like the body used to be. We are entitled to glimpse an ankle; but I had stripped her bare. I was

busted to a corner where the questioning began.

This questioning was largely a matter of forms, none of which fitted my case. Name: we took a long time over that and it didn't. I felt, improve my chances. Then came the question that, in one way or another, on telephones, at libraries, in hotels, everyone would ask me: "Whom do you belong to?" Now it's a sad business (though of my own making), but I belong to no one. In the Great Computer, however, there is no slot for paths. If I didn't belong, I didn't exist. And at that stalemate we languished several days.

Fortunately, I had chosen a bank in the same building as my publisher. My visits to establish my identity upstairs with him were so prolonged that one of my cross-examiners in the bank downstairs assumed that I was employed by him, and entered this information on her forms. I grasped at the indignity with gratitude, and so did the computer. I was given a cheque book with my name bandoleered printed on it, and my triumph lasted until I realized that no one would accept these cheques—not even other branches of the same bank. Restaurants, hotels, shops should all hang up the same sign: WE DO NOT

TRUST YOU. For that is the truth. They have been cheated and robbed so often, I was told, that now they look on everyone as a crook. So the crook is victorious, for to defeat him we have accepted his standards.

My next experiment was with travellers' cheques. Wherever I went, in whatever hamburgered desert or forest, I would approach one of the patrician banks with these cheques. But they were not so easy to convert back into money as I had believed. Bank officials would at once ask for my YE DEE (meaning, confusingly, identity card). YE DEEs are miniature placards, embellished with "mug shots" that are carried in the clothing or worn boastfully on the chest like a battalion of medals. I didn't have one. The problem was: how officially to identify someone who has been recognized as having no official existence? Letters, books, membership cards of the Automobile Association, the New York Public Library, British Museum, London Library, National Book League—all useless. My driving licence, being out of date and with the wrong address, was a positive handicap: I was clearly no motorist. At one super-bank even my passport was judged inadequate, since it failed to list

my weight, seemed uncertain about the colour of my eyes, presented a photograph (nine years old) of some accomplice and mentioned a "peculiarly so microscopic and intimately placed as to be valueless for bank purposes. Yet if I were not to be extinguished, I needed money. After all, this was my own money I was trying to recover.

Using the contents of my briefcase and my most tiresome and elaborate manner, I set out to construct a convincing self-portrait of a blue-eyed biographer. Warning to this task, calling unsuccessfully for a Who's Who (when will that book be of use?), adding one ingenious circumstantial detail to the next, I grew so self-immersed as to overlook the lack of corresponding interest from my bank-audience. Not liking my work to be dismissed, I accused them of ignoring reality for empty procedure. I had built up a plausible prima facie case. But, as one of the cashiers gently explained: "We couldn't care less."

It is a tribute to my desperation that I did cash my travellers' cheques on agreeing to have the transaction filmed for possible use by the police. You may judge how infuriating it had become when (once the money was in my hands) I asked whether I might buy this film for repeat performances at banks all over the country.

What I really needed was a bank card. Without this I could make no airplane reservations and was barred from hotels (speeding, one night under the stars). So, stumbling through a musical dog show playing there that day, I returned to the bank. The building was full of pos-

ters and pamphlets soliciting me to take one of these bank cards, but when I tried to do so I found I was not entitled to one. This time my paralysis came from the lack of a social security number. Once again I did not exist.

Scattering the dogs, I fled upstairs. Since it was becoming so difficult to get back my money, and no one could accept my cheques, I had arranged to make air and hotel reservations through my publisher, repaying him with money from dowstairs. This system exploded when the publisher's computer failed to "accept" me. It said I had no "code". But if I did not exist, I argued, surely there was a need to invent me; otherwise to whom had my generous advance on royalties been paid? This question proved curiously telling, and a fictional entry, equally my own, was created—a numbered and nameless being (though allowed the courtesy title of Michael Holroyd) which everyone seemed to prefer to the old familiar one. Once this operation had been performed upstairs, I took the idea downstairs, where, following some amused discussion, it was successfully repeated. After nine weeks, upstairs, downstairs, I was reborn.

In America everything is made easy. There are no difficulties, only problems. "What is your problem?" was the question most frequently flung at me. One of my problems is that I belong to a mathematical but not a cultural minority. Had I for instance, succeeded in being a woman (it has been done), I would have found in New York a special Woman's Bank. But there are simply not enough self-employed people to achieve minority status. In the bad old days there had been discrimination against, not a minority, but the majority of Americans: the blacks, women, homosexuals, Jews, almost everyone alive and, for all I know, even the dead. The regular hundred-per-cent American, whom no one had bothered to penalize, was a pretty

pale and purposeless creature. Vitality and humour belong to the deprived. There is almost no one who has escaped at one time or another some discrimination, and will now could boast of having weathered it.

Even the police have claimed minority bonuses. The type of segregation helps conceal the faint of heart, but the majority, enables each minute cargo to wave its flag of special liberation.

Vitality and humour seem to the wane. Everything is solemnly categorized, segregated, polished up by fashion. When I went into a bookstore at Harvard to enquire after Shaw's *The Adventures of the Black Girl in her Search for God*, was directed to the "Black Studies" and the "Women Studies" sections where, I book not having recently been remembered, I did not see prominently displayed. When asked, bearing in mind the sad and colour of the audio whether I should try Men's White Studies, I was suspect of joking—though why or joke should be better, this another I don't know.

The acquisition of America and the machines. They are very fine. If you want anything done, ask a machine. Machines buy and sell, produce, communicate. They keep us alive, or don't. No wonder human beings are almost redundant. To make a secret their decline has become national pre-occupation. A popular method is for America to resemble their machines, making the same way as Enlishmen said to resemble their dogs. It is astonishing what willpower can achieve. Sometimes you can hardly get them apart. They congregate windowless construction bashed homogenized high (some of which can never be switched off), protected from burglars, rapists, mugger murderers, pedestrians. They are guarded by bulging policemen, fat with revolvers, radio batons, helmets and a chain of brave impedimenta. No or may speak without stenographic form, may enter a building without submitting to search or go anywhere without waving his YE DEE like a drowning swimmer.

Upon a time there were two types of problem: the avoidable and unavoidable. The art of life lay in distinguishing between them. Americans (and I suspect ourselves) excel in the former. Most of the problems they do not solve, could easily be solved between breakfast and lunch: by then—and this is our real predicament—what to do between lunch and tea? On average, Americans watch six vacuum-packed hours of television a day, but that still leaves seven when they are plainly unplugged from their sets. It is the threat of this emptiness that agitates people so acutely the time when you switch off from automatic pilot, and your own way. For where are we going? The answer to this may be so bleak that we prefer to obliterate it, lumber through with phantom rocks and boulders that cannot be got round because, in any case, they do not exist. From politics to the plains of academe, the manufacture of these problems is a bustling industry. It is assisted by news papers. In the days before Elmer Gantry (in the shape of James Earl Ray) rode again through the country, various Americans were spotted brandishing firearms near President Ford. He was a difficult target, one of the quick. Unaided, he tripped, dodged, lurched, hurried staggered, fell from place to place, "meeting with" the people and spending their money.

It was impossible to tell whether or not he had been hit, poor man, very few hundred yards. No wonder people spoke of his courage. But those ladies who lined up to watch him limp and bluster along, and who waved (like flags) their guns as if to orchestrate his progress were not honestly trying to kill him. Why should they, unless there was no other way of achieving what they wanted? What they wanted was notoriety; a public notoriety to overcome their feeling of inadequacy—that same sense of individual non-existence that threatened me. Some commentators remarked on how fortunate it was that they had missed their whipping, staggering, lurching target. But they were not aiming for Ford. They aimed at the cover of Time and Newsweek, at the front page of The New York Times and Washington Post—and they hit a bull's eye.

There is space in America, and lots of weather, lots of food. The space is not all empty and the food not at all good; but the weather is always climactic. It is reported incessantly on the radio, and its temperature flashed to us from street corners. Weather has become the focus of the best and (together with some westerners) most authentic television programmes. Hurricanes, blizzards, "line storms", vast snow, severe warnings—there is plenty of live drama staged each evening by satellite. The television companies compete with one another to give you the best weather. They provide not just the information, but the experience. From your room with its neutral climate of air-conditioning or central heat, you may feel the high and low pressure systems, the tropical heat, frigid squalls

Continued on page 12

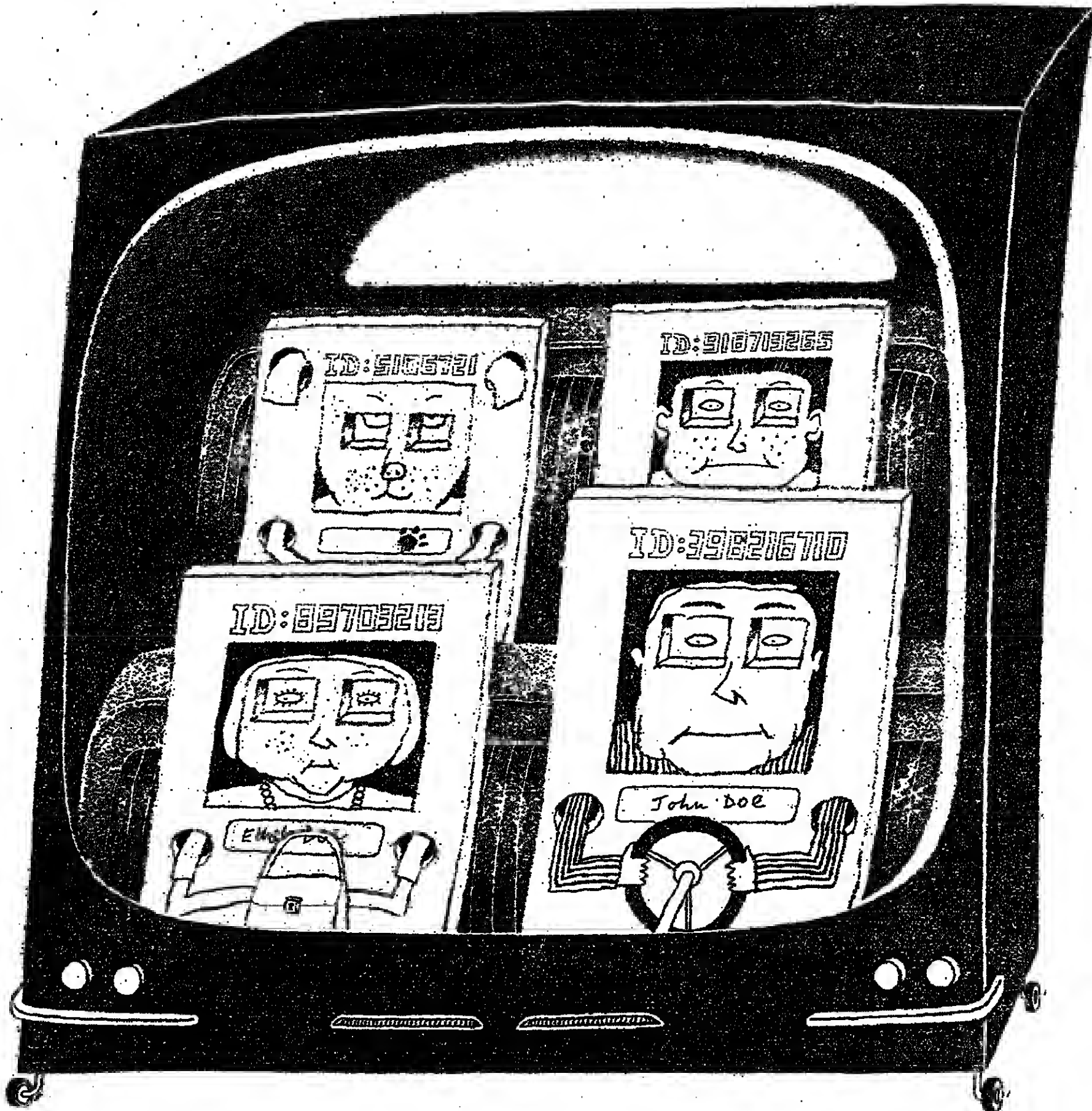


Illustration by Chris Winn

There is a danger in the brief journey followed by the long essay, the danger that one will be enthusiastically misunderstood. No writer wishes to deny his readers the pleasure of a good misunderstanding. From Dickens to Dostoevsky there are, in the American context, heavy precedents for this. They seem to show, down to the 1930s, America had been aping whatever Europe was doing. But now Europe, especially Britain, tries to copy America and does it very badly. Criticism of America may be one of the better ways of sparing her this caricature.

ROYAL ALBERT HALL

Kensington, SW7 2AP

VICTOR HOCHHAUSER presents
TOMORROW at 7.30
VIENNESE EVENING

Programme:
Johann Strauss I: Gold and Silver Waltzes
Johann Strauss II: Blue Danube
Johann Strauss I: Gold and Silver Waltzes
Johann Strauss II: Blue Danube

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
Conductor: **VILEM TAUSKY**
Tickets: 50p, £1.00, £1.50, £2.00, £2.50, £3.00 (all others sold) from Box Office (01-589 8212) & Agents

FRIDAY NEXT, 20 JANUARY, at 7.30 p.m.
Ravi Shankar
An evening of Indian classical music by India's most famous artist with **ALLA RAKHA** tabla

Tickets: 50p, £1.00, £1.50, £2.00, £2.50, £3.00 (all others sold) from Box Office (01-589 8212) & Agents

VICTOR HOCHHAUSER presents
SUNDAY, 22 JANUARY, at 7.30 p.m.

Programme:
Rossini: Overture to "The Barber of Seville"
Vaughan Williams: Fantasia on "Greensleeves"
Grieg: Piano Concerto in A minor
Dvorak: New World Symphony

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
ALUN FRANCIS
NATASHA TADSON
Tickets: 50p, £1.00, £1.50, £2.00, £2.50, £3.00 (all others sold) & Agents

THURSDAY, 26 JAN, at 7.30 p.m.
CLASSICAL POPS

Programme:
Swan Lake Suite (Excerpt)
Bartered Bride Overture
Carmen Suite 1 & 2 (Excerpt)
Piano Concerto in A minor (Excerpt)
Mozart: Piano Concerto in A major (Excerpt)
Grieg: Piano Concerto in A minor (Excerpt)

JOHNNY MORRIS presenter
and Narrator of *Ting Tang the Elephant*
METROPOLITAN CONCERT ORCHESTRA
JOHN STEER: Conductor
RALPH KOHN: Baritone

Tickets: 50p, £1.00, £1.50, £2.00, £2.50, £3.00 (all others sold) from Box Office (01-589 8212) & Agents

VICTOR HOCHHAUSER presents
SUNDAY, 5 FEBRUARY, at 7.30

TCHAIKOVSKY
Nutcracker Suite
Piano Concerto No. 1
Romeo and Juliet
Swan Lake

OVERTURE '1812' Canon and Mortar Effects
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
VILEM TAUSKY
ALLAN SCHILLER

Tickets: 50p, £1.00, £1.50, £2.00, £2.50, £3.00 (all others sold) from Box Office (01-589 8212) & Agents

VICTOR HOCHHAUSER presents
by arrangement with HAROLD HOLT LTD.

ITZHAK PERLMAN
Conductor: **CHARLES DUTOIT**

SUNDAY, 12 FEBRUARY, at 7.30 p.m.
Violin Concerto in E BACH
Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor .. BRUCH
Violin Concerto in D BRAHMS

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
SUNDAY, 26 FEBRUARY, at 7.30 p.m.

Violin Concerto No. 4 in D MOZART
Symphonie Espagnole LALO
Violin Concerto in D minor SIBELIUS

LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
Tickets: 50p, £1.00, £1.50, £2.00, £2.50, £3.00 (all others sold) from Box Office (01-589 8212) & Agents

TUESDAY, 14 FEBRUARY, at 7.30 p.m.
Advance booking is strongly advised for

VERDI REQUIEM
conducted by **RICCARDO MUTI**

with **RENATA SCOTTO**
FIONA GOSSETT
VERIANO LUCETTI
YEVGENY NESTERENKO

(Star of the recently televised Boris Godunov)
PHILHARMONIA
Ambrosian Singers

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Telephone Box Office (01-589 8212)
Tickets: £5.50, £5.00, £4.50, £4.00, £3.50, £3.00, £2.50, £2.00, £1.50, £1.00, 50p

LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET
Artistic Director: **Beryl Grey, CBE**

SPRING TOUR

arch 13 to 18 Alhambra Theatre BRADFORD
Tel. 297723
Swan Lake

arch 20 to 25 Opera House MANCHESTER
Tel. 061-834 1787
Romeo and Juliet, Swan Lake

arch 27 Grand Theatre WOLVERHAMPTON
Tel. 257723
Swan Lake

rch 3 to 8 The Congress Theatre, EASTBOURNE
Tel. 36363
Romeo and Juliet, Sanguine Fan, Scheherazade, Etudes

rch 10 to 15 New Theatre OXFORD
Tel. 01865 44541
Romeo and Juliet, Sanguine Fan, Scheherazade, Greening (Premiere)

rch 17 to 22 Gaumont Theatre SOUTHAMPTON
Tel. 297723
Sleeping Beauty, Scheherazade, Etudes, Greening

Booking details from theatre concerned

JOHN'S, Smith Square, SW1
Wednesday 1 FEBRUARY at 7.30
Netherlands Embassy in association with Park Lane Group
present LONDON debut of

RIJNSMOND PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE
with **FRANS VAN DE WIEL** flute

Heinz Walter Klingenstein Tenor de L'Academy Night Music Radolf Escher Monologue
Mala Caga Credo in US; 3rd Construction Paul Tanser Divertimento
Mala Caga Credo in US; 3rd Construction Paul Tanser Divertimento

on 21.50, £1.10, 70p (all unreserved) in advance from John's & Tiliotti Box
on 102-955 84181 and at door on night of concert from 6.30 p.m.

JOHN'S, Smith Square, SUNDAY, 29 JANUARY, at 7.30
HAPPY BIRTHDAY VIVALDI
1678-1978

L'ESTRO ARMONICO ENSEMBLE
Directed from the violin by **DEREK SOLOMONS**

Concerts for two mandolins; soprano recorder; solo violin; two violins and two cellos
at John's, Smith Square, London, N.1. 01-883 5266 and 01-346 0350.
Presented by The Vivideli Society

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Manager: William Lyne/Mailing list 80p a year
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Arts Council of Great Britain

Tonight **STEPHEN PRESTON**
18 Jan. 7.30 p.m.
TREVOR PINNOCK
19 Jan. 7.30 p.m.
ANTHONY PLEETH cello

Sunday **NANCY NEWNHAM**
15 Jan. 3.00 p.m.
Nancy Newnham & Sheryl
Wicks have been awarded
Royal Philharmonic Society
Gold Medal

Sunday **JULIAN BREAM** guitar
15 Jan. 7.30 p.m.
Debenhams Concert Series **ALL SEATS SOLD**

Monday **ULRICH THIESS** recorder
20 Jan. 7.30 p.m.
New Era Int. Concerts
New Era Int. Concerts

Tuesday **GERHARD OPPITZ** piano
21 Jan. 7.30 p.m.
New Era Int. Concerts
New Era Int. Concerts

Wednesday **ALICE FAUST** cello
22 Jan. 7.30 p.m.
New Era Int. Concerts
New Era Int. Concerts

Thursday **GOTTFRIED SCHNEIDER**
23 Jan. 7.30 p.m.
New Era Int. Concerts
New Era Int. Concerts

Friday **WOLFGANG WATZINGER**
24 Jan. 7.30 p.m.
New Era Int. Concerts
New Era Int. Concerts

Saturday **RAMON WALTER** piano
25 Jan. 7.30 p.m.
New Era Int. Concerts
New Era Int. Concerts

Sunday **ALBERTO PORTUGUES**
26 Jan. 7.30 p.m.
New Era Int. Concerts
New Era Int. Concerts

Monday **ALBERTO PORTUGUES**
27 Jan. 7.30 p.m.
New Era Int. Concerts
New Era Int. Concerts

Tuesday **ALBERTO PORTUGUES**
28 Jan. 7.30 p.m.
New Era Int. Concerts
New Era Int. Concerts

Wednesday **ALBERTO PORTUGUES**
29 Jan. 7.30 p.m.
New Era Int. Concerts
New Era Int. Concerts

Thursday **ALBERTO PORTUGUES**
30 Jan. 7.30 p.m.
New Era Int. Concerts
New Era Int. Concerts

Friday **ALBERTO PORTUGUES**
31 Jan. 7.30 p.m.
New Era Int. Concerts
New Era Int. Concerts

Saturday **ALBERTO PORTUGUES**
1 Feb. 7.30 p.m.
New Era Int. Concerts
New Era Int. Concerts

Sunday **ALBERTO PORTUGUES**
2 Feb. 7.30 p.m.
New Era Int. Concerts
New Era Int. Concerts

Monday **ALBERTO PORTUGUES**
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New Era Int. Concerts
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Tuesday **ALBERTO PORTUGUES**
4 Feb. 7.30 p.m.
New Era Int. Concerts
New Era Int. Concerts

Wednesday **ALBERTO PORTUGUES**
5 Feb. 7.30 p.m.
New Era Int. Concerts
New Era Int. Concerts

Thursday **ALBERTO PORTUGUES**
6 Feb. 7.30 p.m.
New Era Int. Concerts
New Era Int. Concerts

Friday **ALBERTO PORTUGUES**
7 Feb. 7.30 p.m.
New Era Int. Concerts
New Era Int. Concerts

Saturday **ALBERTO PORTUGUES**
8 Feb. 7.30 p.m.
New Era Int. Concerts
New Era Int. Concerts

Sunday **ALBERTO PORTUGUES**
9 Feb. 7.30 p.m.
New Era Int. Concerts
New Era Int. Concerts

Monday **ALBERTO PORTUGUES**
10 Feb. 7.30 p.m.
New Era Int. Concerts
New Era Int. Concerts

Tuesday **ALBERTO PORTUGUES**
11 Feb. 7.30 p.m.
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New Era Int. Concerts

Wednesday **ALBERTO PORTUGUES**
12 Feb. 7.30 p.m.
New Era Int. Concerts
New Era Int. Concerts

Thursday **ALBERTO PORTUGUES**
13 Feb. 7.30 p.m.
New Era Int. Concerts
New Era Int. Concerts

Friday **ALBERTO PORTUGUES**
14 Feb. 7.30 p.m.
New Era Int. Concerts
New Era Int. Concerts

Saturday **ALBERTO PORTUGUES**
15 Feb. 7.30 p.m.
New Era Int. Concerts
New Era Int. Concerts

Sunday **ALBERTO PORTUGUES**
16 Feb. 7.30 p.m.
New Era Int. Concerts
New Era Int. Concerts

Monday **ALBERTO PORTUGUES**
17 Feb. 7.30 p.m.
New Era Int. Concerts
New Era Int. Concerts

Tuesday **ALBERTO PORTUGUES**
18 Feb. 7.30 p.m.
New Era Int. Concerts
New Era Int. Concerts

Wednesday **ALBERTO PORTUGUES**
19 Feb. 7.30 p.m.
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Thursday **ALBERTO PORTUGUES**
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New Era Int. Concerts

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Thursday **ALBERTO PORTUGUES**
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New Era Int. Concerts
New Era Int. Concerts

Friday **ALBERTO PORTUGUES**
28 Feb. 7.30 p.m.
New Era Int. Concerts
New Era Int. Concerts

Saturday **ALBERTO PORTUGUES**
29 Feb. 7.30 p.m.
New Era Int. Concerts
New Era Int. Concerts

Sunday **ALBERTO PORTUGUES**
30 Feb. 7.30 p.m.
New Era Int. Concerts
New Era Int. Concerts

Monday **ALBERTO PORTUGUES**
1 Mar. 7.30 p.m.
New Era Int. Concerts
New Era Int. Concerts

Tuesday **ALBERTO PORTUGUES**
2 Mar. 7.30 p.m.
New Era Int. Concerts
New Era Int. Concerts

GLC South Bank Concert Halls

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Tickets: 528 3131. Telephone bookings not accepted on Sunday.
Information: 528 3002. For enquiries when postal bookings have already
been made: 528 2572.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

Tuesday 17 Jan. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Wednesday 18 Jan. 8 p.m.
BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Charles Mackerras (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Thursday 19 Jan. 8 p.m.
LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Friday 20 Jan. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Saturday 21 Jan. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Sunday 22 Jan. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Monday 23 Jan. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Tuesday 24 Jan. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Wednesday 25 Jan. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Thursday 26 Jan. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Friday 27 Jan. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Saturday 28 Jan. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Sunday 29 Jan. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Monday 30 Jan. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Tuesday 31 Jan. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Wednesday 1 Feb. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Thursday 2 Feb. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Friday 3 Feb. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Saturday 4 Feb. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Sunday 5 Feb. 8 p.m.
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Saturday 11 Feb. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
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Symphony No. 1 in D
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Sunday 12 Feb. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Monday 13 Feb. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Tuesday 14 Feb. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Wednesday 15 Feb. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Thursday 16 Feb. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Friday 17 Feb. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Saturday 18 Feb. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Sunday 19 Feb. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Monday 20 Feb. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Tuesday 21 Feb. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Wednesday 22 Feb. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Thursday 23 Feb. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
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Friday 24 Feb. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Saturday 25 Feb. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Sunday 26 Feb. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Monday 27 Feb. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Tuesday 28 Feb. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Wednesday 29 Feb. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Thursday 30 Feb. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Friday 1 Mar. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

Saturday 2 Mar. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
James Conlon (cond.)
Symphony No. 1 in D
Tchaikovsky

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

KRYSTIAN ZIMMERMAN
winner of the Warsaw Competition
plays two Piano Concertos
with the

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

TUESDAY 17 JANUARY at 8 p.m.
A Peter Seeger Concert
Berlioz: Overture, Les Francs Juges
Chopin: Piano Concerto No. 2 in F minor
Mahler: Symphony No. 1 in D

Conducted by the young American
JAMES CONLON
in his London debut

Kristian Zimmerman signs with the LSO conducted by André Previn in a Rank Xerox
Concert on

SUNDAY 22 JANUARY at 7.30 p.m.
Tickets for both concerts: £3.50, £3.00, £2.50, £2.00 (all others sold) from
Box Office (01-589 8212) & Agents

A little less hush, please

ay of the Year 1949
Canada (tomorrow)

Michael Ratcliffe
I never bought anything I might need more, says the octopus of his clever young participation. It is a great pleasure, part of the pleasure from the sublimating fables in the *Come Back, Little Bessie* (1950) to discover, for the first time, the breeding air of *Daphne Laureola* (1949), remembered as a vehicle for Edith Piaf. James Bridle's play is a comedy and a tragedy, it is a comedy and a tragedy. Many calling it a comedy, and adolescent high school, about the nature of the thing, about the thin crust of the thing, about the thin crust of the thing, about the thin crust of the thing.



Clive Arrindell and Joan Plowright in *Daphne Laureola*

st respect, it is not always what we see. The discovery, however, that even human beings have their charms and uses seems a rather more than to preserve from the late of the late, like "Dreams" and "Gotta keep it some", "Sheba is the best", "Daphne Laureola" (directed by W. H. Auden) is Olivier's production for Granada. It is a comedy and a tragedy, it is a comedy and a tragedy. Many calling it a comedy, and adolescent high school, about the nature of the thing, about the thin crust of the thing, about the thin crust of the thing, about the thin crust of the thing.

Transatlantic tables as "A Tribute to the American Theatre". Sunset-titles over Quay Street and the skyline of Salford, accompanied by Purcell at his most elegant, hardly set one on the edge of one's seat. They establish an excessively reverent, not to say sedate, mood. Surely the sun should be rising on an enterprise as bold as this? There has been, I think, a central flaw in the choice of performance of every play except one. The exception was *Saturday, Sunday, Monday*, transmitted on New Year's Day. Alan Bridges entirely reconstructed Eduardo de Filippo's masterpiece to the scale of television, thus rejecting the letter, though never the spirit, of Zeffirelli's famous original: neither Joan Plowright nor Frank Finlay has ever done anything better, and their performances, once more refined after the wear and tear of a West End run, came across superbly.

Of the first season's trio, however, *The Collection* was well played, but an empty piece; *Car bad a poddling-hero* (Robert Wagner), and *Hindle Wakes*, though acted with skill and affection by Donald Pleasence and Rosalind Ayres, made tinker-tape of Stanley Houghton's text and nonsense of his narrative skill. This year William Inge's *Come Back, Little Bessie* proved not only to be a calculating cracker-barrel weepie, but was seriously miscast in both leading roles (Olivier, Joanne Woodward), and miscasting again takes some of the pleasure of discovery of *Daphne Laureola*.

Not all Miss Plowright's vivacity and intelligence make her right for Bridle's lapsed lady bountiful. She is never dull, but the part calls for a *grande dame* at once more romantic and wilder than she. Surely it is not confined within the genius of its original interpreter but well within the range of Geraldine Page, Patricia Routledge, Sian Phillips or Maggie Smith. As the young idealist, the male hully and the omniscient millionaire, Clive Arrindell, Bryan Marshall and (too briefly) Olivier himself are all sharply in focus and help Mr Hussein to make startling good sense of this splendid play. To sum up. Five of Olivier's first six plays have come from the period 1949-61, when between his years at the New Theatre and his foundation of the National at the Old Vic, his own commercial career and instinct reached their height: I hope the next three plays are more representative of the century as a whole. Casting, there need be no mistakes. If *Play for Today* and *Play of the Week* can produce faultlessly apt casts, as they currently do, week after week, "Laurence Olivier Presents" should scoop the lot.

Cherry Orchard

verside Studios

Wardle

Considering the amount of work that has been quietly going on for the past two years, it is a little surprising to find that the project is actually beginning to take shape. The idea, being that if Lord, must be, this month it has been more accurately produced as "Laurence Olivier presents" and, where appropriate (as on *Hot Tin Roof*), additionally given for the outcome of the auction, are resisted (never is Michael Elphick's Lopakhin more awkwardly apologetic than in his moment of conquest); and that there are no over-detailed cameos. David Pugh's Epiphany has squawky boots and a cheerful manner, and that is all. Elizabeth Estensen's Dnyasha is a dreamy country girl with no affected gentileisms. It is a commonplace to recognize Chekhov's characters as egotists; less usual to point out, as this company does, that they do not see themselves like that. This is the quality that illuminates performances like Eleanor Bron's Charlotta, far more a sad outsider than a resident clown; and Leigh Lawson's amiably thick-skinned Yasha, entirely without the usual neuroticisms of the uppy valet. It also accounts for the sheer deafness of the family to all appeals to reason; and supplies a powerful emotional lift whenever a spark of affection does pass between the insulated personalities. That is particularly so with Judy Parfitt and Philip Locke as the prodigal heads of the household who are forever parting and caressing, only with their hands and voices.

Mr Gill has not fully come to terms with Riverside's wide open spaces, and one could have done with fewer running exits. But he brings about beautiful contrasts between two character types, a Chekhovian and a realist, and the action behind the audience with offstage conversation and clicking billiard cues.

A rich treasure

Alfred Brendel
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Joan Chissell

"Death has buried here a rich treasure but still falter hopes." That well known inscription on Schubert's tomb is quoted by David Cairns in his introduction to the programme-book for the current "Mainly Schubert" series as the root cause of posterity's insistence on regarding Schubert as a simple lyricist who never lived to experience life in depth. Of all the artists taking part in these concerts, no one is likely to help Mr Cairns refute that view more than Alfred Brendel. As he reminded us again on Thursday in the second of the four recitals, he is contributing to the series, it would be difficult to name any pianist alive or dead who does more reading between the lines in Schubert. The miracle of it all is that despite so much searching, so much conscious interpretation of every small detail, Mr Brendel's playing still has the immediacy of discovery. He recreates the music as graphically as if Schubert himself were dancing and waltzing and extending the action behind the audience with offstage conversation and clicking billiard cues.

first time; though of course with a rather better technique. He began on Thursday with the A minor sonata, Op 42, of 1825, a work which incidentally helps to explain why Schubert never completed the contemporary "Le Relique". Sonata heard from Mr Brendel on Monday. Their first movements are first cousins. Schubert would not doubt have loved the very wide dynamic range and urgency with which Mr Brendel constantly underlined the drama. Whether he would have liked the opening motif, always played so much slower than the rest of the movement, remains a moot point. The D major sonata at the end of this long programme brought further evidence of Mr Brendel's addition to elasticity of tempo in characterization, but since it was done with sufficient grace and charm to disguise the not entirely heavenly lengths of this work, only a pedant would complain. For as he suggested, he chose the four Impromptus Op 90. Those for me were the highlights of the recital. Rarely have I heard them sound more potent, more intense, more mature. Yet they had a marvellous simplicity and inevitability, too. Nor could melody have been more ravishing.

Less than happy

Pierre Fournier
St John's

Barry Millington

Two pieces from outside the common cello repertoire played by the French virtuoso Pierre Fournier promised a fascinating concert last night at St John's, Smith Square, but in the event neither lived up to expectation. In *Pieces en Concert*, a concoction by the French cellist Paul Bazelaire of movements by Francois Couperin and served up for solo cello with string orchestra, Mr Bazelaire has done for Couperin what Giazotto did for Albinoni, but with less respect for his original. Strangely enough, Bazelaire has not only filled out the texture, supplying contrapuntal lines, imitation and so on according to the lights of his own time (the 1920s), but he has done so in a semi-Italianate manner. The end product begins, in the *Prelude and Sicilienne*, with overtones of a Visconti sound-track, and ends like Peter Warlock; not an unpleasant combination, and surprisingly pregnant with sentiment and nostalgia, but little to do with Couperin.

Mr Fournier was eloquent in the *Pointe*, and if his means of expression were not those of the eighteenth century, that mattered less in the *Bazelaire* (to attribute the *Pieces en Concert* most precisely) than in C. P. E. Bach's Cello Concerto No 170. But the Bach was disguised above all by sheer technical problems and I have no doubt that Mr Fournier was less happy about his performance than anyone else. The orchestra, St John's regular ensemble, was put through the Overture of J. S. Bach's Suite No 3 in D rather more swiftly by John Loblock than it could comfortably manage, but there was stylishness to be heard elsewhere, and even more so in the Fourth Suite. Especially fine was the wind playing, in spite of the trumpets' tendency to obliterate the strings, but the Gavotte of the Fourth Suite was exquisitely poised.

's Make an Opera

diff Sherman

meth Loveland

h Wales is an area where exploitation of child labour, tragic and large into rural and social history, one had expected that the National Opera, in its *Let's Make an Opera* for the first time would give the *Let's Make an Opera* which runs beneath the surface, a more pointed exposure. The excellent advance work for the schools who are a large proportion of audiences does go into the *Let's Make an Opera* in a thought-provoking but the sense of shock in discovery of the story of little chimney sweep is not any special meaning on then, this happens at the end of the work, and this is a production is weak, slow to get going. The *Let's Make an Opera* do not enunciate well, are not helped by eccentric grouping which cause times to be delivered back

to the audience and they have little in the way of positive example from their adult professional colleagues. Eric Crozier has adapted his libretto to the Welsh production, but lack of clarity clouds the point. When the second half arrives, everything changes. A little magic has been worked in between. It is all rescued by Julian Smith, whose evening this surely is. The moment he starts rehearsing the audience, amiable, inventive and completely in charge, involvement takes over, and the sense of spontaneous and creative fun implicit in the work's title, is all around. It spreads to the stage, where the children show they can sing and act with animation, Peter Massochi and Mark Hamilton bring Black Boh and Clem to life, and Helen Field as Rowan makes an impact with her stown scene. Sally Day's production is neatly tailored in the small stages which it will visit on tour, and moves well when at last the music prompts it, while Antony MacDonald's sets, similarly economic, are bright and eye-catching.

Film about Stevie

Smith

The Bowden Production of Hugh Whitmore's play *Stevie*, starring Glenda Jackson, will start filming for First Artists on January 16 at EMI Elstree Studios. Bowden Productions is the company formed four years ago by writer/producer Robert Enders and Glenda Jackson. In *Stevie* Miss Jackson will play her original stage role as the poet and novelist Stevie Smith, and the film marks producer Robert Enders' debut as a director. Mona Washbourne will repeat her stage role as the hussling no-nonsense aunt, and Trevor Howard and Alec McCowen have other leading parts.

Lane Group

ell Room

Harrison

guitar and the oboe have asly limited, and ranges et pieces which made up igh's programme in the Lane Group's "Young s. and Twentieth-Century series were sufficiently e never to make the famous. "Lullaby for Ilian ow" is Peter Maxwell 9's only piece for guitar is a fugitive yet charming ally sinewy little work ecieved, aptly refined mance from Darko clean and clear technique confirmed in Michael

Blake Watkins's "Solus", which seemed more specifically a guitar piece in that it used the instrument's special techniques and gestures in a more direct way. The thematic ideas were quite varied, however, even if it developed at too great a length. John Anderson began the oboe part of the evening with a solo "Improvisation" of his own composition, and it proved to be a quirky little piece with isolated high notes and brief rushing phrases. His other unaccompanied work, "Solo" by Denzov, which had his British premiere, seemed in comparison to have little point despite its more up-to-date manners. In Richard Rodney Bennett's "Sonata" and Arilla Bozay's

"Tetelpar" Mr Anderson was joined by Trevor Hughes at the piano, and they showed the former to be a well made, but rather low-temperature piece, the latter to be marked by an unduly tortured sensibility. Both were outclassed by Matyas Seiber's short but highly eventful "Improvisation", and it seemed right that that should receive the best motivated performance. Mr Perrinjak returned for two guitar pieces, Brouwer's "La Espira Eterna" and Benguerel's "Versus" (another British premiere), that seemed to be no more than strings of effects, some of them admittedly ingenious. Luckily he ended with an engaging account of some of the Villa-Lobos "Etudes".

track, and ends like Peter Warlock; not an unpleasant combination, and surprisingly pregnant with sentiment and nostalgia, but little to do with Couperin.

PAUL McCARTNEY: SONGSMITH



An interview with Paul McCartney, talking seriously about his songs - how he writes them, and what influences him, filmed while he was recording "Mull of Kintyre", will be the principal item in the first edition of THE SOUTH BANK SHOW a new arts programme edited and presented by Melvyn Bragg. Other items in the first programme include a first look at Fred Zinneman's latest film, "Julia", starring Jane Fonda and Vanessa Redgrave; a visit to the massive Surrealist Exhibition; and a preview of David Mercer's TV play "Flint". Studio Reviewers Germaine Greer and Gerald Scarfe.

THE SOUTH BANK SHOW

from London Weekend Television



STARTS TONIGHT AT 10.15 on ITV

Future editions of THE SOUTH BANK SHOW will include filmed portraits of Harold Pinter, Khachaturian, Dennis Potter, Alan Howard, Satyajit Ray, Ken Dodd, Norman Mailer, Hal Prince, Francoise Sagan. There will be programmes about Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Paganini Variations", Edna O'Brien in Arabia, Sir Grenville Kentock, Paul Morrissey on British Comedy, Ted Hughes' poems, Kenneth MacMillan's "Wayward", Robert Cohan's London Contemporary Dance, Michael Holroyd's Biography of G.B. Shaw, Jacques Loussier, John Arden and Lord Clark-James Ivory and Ruth Praver Jhabvala are in India for a specially commissioned arts feature. Studio reviews of films, TV, books, music, theatre, exhibitions and events in the arts will be a regular weekly feature.

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Soloists: Vivica Townley/Elizabeth Connell/Kenneth Bowen/John Tomlinson

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SUNDAY, 29th FEBRUARY at 7.30 p.m.

"POLISH RADIO ORCHESTRA"

Conductor: Vitem Janku Musical Chairs

Soloists: Konstantyn Kulka

Tickets: £2.75, £2.00, £1.50, £1.00, 75p.

SUNDAY, 19th FEBRUARY at 7.30 p.m.

"CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA"

Conductor: Vitem Janku Musical Chairs

Soloists: Konstantyn Kulka

Tickets: £2.50, £2.00, £1.50, £1.00, 75p.

SUNDAY, 5th MARCH at 7.30 p.m.

"ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA"

Conductor: Vitem Janku Musical Chairs

Soloists: Konstantyn Kulka

Tickets: £2.50, £2.00, £1.50, £1.00, 75p.

SUNDAY, 19th MARCH at 7.30 p.m.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Conductor: Hans Vonk Musical Chairs

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Music by

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Tickets: £3.00, £2.50, £2.00, £1.50, £1.00 from The Royal Festival Hall Box Office (01-922 5191) or from The Ticket Secretary, 1 Brunswick Gardens, W8. (01-727 9171 even)

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Messiah; Overture; Overture; for piano, wind and percussion.

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Western: Das Augenlicht; for choir and small orchestra.

Shostakovich: Cello Concerto No. 1.

(* First performance in London)

WEDNESDAY, 25th JANUARY, 7.30 p.m.

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Director: Joanna Brandon

Tickets: £2.50, £1.50, £1.00 (includes 70p). (Tel: 01-876 4398 or 0483 71281 ext 6781)

ST. JOHN'S, Smith Square. FRIDAY, 27 JANUARY, at 8 p.m.

Harpichord recital by

ALEXANDER SKEAPING

J. S. BACH Italian Concerto BWV 971 Goldberg Variations BWV 988 Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue BWV 993 (Please note change of programme)

Reserved £2.50 & £1.50. Unreserved £1.00 from Jane Gray, 3 Aberdeen Rd., NW10 2LS (01-483 3678), or at door on night from 7.15. Licensed refreshments.

Chess

Fingers crossed

It has now become probable that, failing the intervention of more reds under the beds than the Belgrade hotels can accommodate, Viktor Korchnoi will emerge as challenger to world champion Anatoly Karpov for his title. I must say it is most inconsiderate of Viktor to put so many vexatious in the way of the Soviet chess authorities. His progress through the Candidates series of matches has prevented anything like the normal coverage of these events in, for example, the national weekly chess-paper 64. All that the readers of that paper have been allowed to see is the bare game without comment or description. The only extra piece of information in the Korchnoi-Spassky match is contained in three cryptic words: *Schot match stiel*—2-6 (score of the match was 2-6) and the reader is left to deduce who has what score.

I wonder how the world championship match will be reported, and in this respect there arises the question of where the match can conveniently be played. It is a place with a sane, non-political atmosphere and, when you come to think of it, there are precious few capital cities in the world of which it is said that cool reason holds sway there.

Perhaps, in order to avoid political disputes, one should go to a country in which only one political party is permitted to exist. Except for its dissidents Moscow might fill the bill but this might not fit in with the FIDE regulations. These say that it is permissible to hold a match in a country of which both players are citizens. But does Korchnoi count as a Soviet citizen? I would doubt that. In which case the other FIDE regulation applies. This states that a match may be held in a country of which one player is a citizen providing the other player does not object. I do not see Korchnoi objecting.

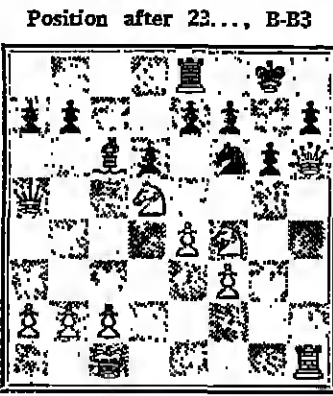
No, the only capital I can think of as being full of this kind of unified reason is Kampala. General Amin would make an ideal chief arbiter and his decisions could be final.

As far as I know, though, Kampala is not preparing to bid for a match for world chess. Four cities at least seem to have the intention of so doing. The one that is prepared to put up the most money is the city of Hamburg, where a group of millionaires are prepared to offer no less than DM4m to finance the match. That is about £1m at the present exchange rate.

Undoubtedly such a sum would be acceptable to both contestants. Like every communist that I have known, Karpov has a healthy respect for money. I used to tell Soviet masters that they were now the capitalists among chess-players and that we in the West represented the proletariat. Secretly they were rather flattered by this pseudo-sarcasm. But the chances of getting the Soviet Chess Federation's agreement to the match being played in West Germany seem rather remote.

Another city interested in holding the event is London and I understand they intend offering £500,000 for the financing of the match. But at the moment the question of a financial sponsor has not been solved. Naturally, the holders of such an event in this country would do an enormous amount for chess in Britain. One can only cross one's fingers in fervent hope that it will indeed come off.

While I was in Switzerland



Position after 22... B-B3

Harry Golombek

What should they know of England?

continued from page 8

pass over you in the space of a few seconds. Almost all this is better than British (no say nothing of Irish) weather, and much more accurately prophesied.

The food is described less accurately. Though often reported as "heavy", it is usually bland. Everyone knows the generosity of American meat, but few have written about those meals that, beginning with coffee, appear to European minds to proceed backwards. It would astonish most Americans to learn that the glass of melting ice and paper napkin that comprises their traditional hors-d'oeuvre baffles many foreigners. Some people will advise you to "eat ethnic", but this can be just as difficult as it sounds. In many regions the sandwich is the chief obstacle to eating. Order a steak, roast beef, lamb chops, beef stroganoff, some eggs or fish and you will probably get some salad followed by a sandwich. And if, in desperation, you switch your order to jumbo shrimp cocktail and chocolate peppermint cake, you will still get salad and a sandwich on the same plate as shrimp and cake and melting ice and napkin.

This provokes panic in some travellers. What, panics the Americans is wine. Wine is a fearful substance, only to be bought at some places in brown paper. In North Carolina, I was transformed into a leering, snatching, dispo-manic monster, and after hopping off on a four-mile trot to track down a brown-paper glass of wine. Elsewhere, in mood-dry states, wine is treated with extreme deference. Carried in the bottle as if it were an explosive, it is poured, with agonising slowness, into tiny sherry glasses to be sipped as a cocktail before the sandwiches.

Eating in restaurants, living in expensive one-night motels, brought me up against the extreme politeness of the Americans. American politeness is so polite that it has become one of the chief causes of American violence. I had come across a similar paradox in Ireland where they do it on the roads. Irish motorists generally drive with extreme caution, seldom exceeding (even for a few light 15 miles an hour. Their reasonlessness stimulates the few others to feats of extreme recklessness. In a similar fashion, American pornography proceeds from the greatest restraint of American puritanism. In England, politeness is a weapon, implanting guilt in Ireland it has become an alibi, the charming explanation for doing nothing. But in America the foreigner is conscious of being hated in a milky bath of politeness. It is a push-button politeness, supplied in a few plastic fountains—"Have a nice day." "You're welcome" and so on. This computer-talk, travelling from the airport into the house, has become the language of human beings. And it drives people mad.

But, scattered through America, often with little knowledge of one another, is a small army of individuals who have resisted this Orwellian outpouring of idiocy, and hence-fitted from the informality and freedom of the country. It is an army because it is composed of people who are fighting for their own standards, and perhaps those of their children, some students, a few farmers. Almost by definition, they do not appear on television or on the front page of newspapers. Often they depend for money on people who understand nothing of what they do or represent. They are given little encouragement and must generate their own enthusiasm. But it is to this private army that a writer should seek to belong. This is his true minority, comprising not (as is so often believed in England) rivals, but allies.

© Michael Holroyd 1978.

"The Slade, and in particular the teaching of Tonks, gave me the sense of direction he had so far lacked. In such an environment he seemed to know who he was and the part he had to play, so that, whatever successes he gained later in his career, he remained to a certain extent a Slade student 'all his life'." That is what Michael Holroyd wrote, in his biography of Augustus John, about the influence on John of the Slade School of Art.

John is the artist we associate with the Slade above all; and by transference of his qualities, we tend to think of the school in that heyday as all flamboyance, *bravura* sketches, free love and glaze. Robert Rauschenberg is wrong picture. In John's time the drawing instruction at the Slade was largely controlled by "those two lean and rock-like bachelors", Frederick Brown and Henry Tonks. They were stern academic masters. (Tonks, a former surgeon, made the girls cry with his fierce commentaries: "What is it? ... What is it? ... Horrible! ... Is it an insect? John had to top over the casts of Greek, Roman and Renaissance heads, "from morning to late afternoon, day after day".) Suddenly, the regime was austere. Men and women worked together in the Antique Rooms only and were otherwise carefully segregated. "This is not a mortuarian agency," Brown told Alfred Hayward, a student whom he had observed saying good morning to a girl in the corridor. Models and students were forbidden to converse. The John legend and the Slade legend came later: Holroyd shows how.

Drawings and paintings by both pupils and staff of the Slade—many of them works which have been shut away from public view for 35 years—will be on show in an exhibition at the Fine Art Society, 148 New Bond Street, from January 24 to February 17. But the exhibition is rather more than that. University College London, was left money by Felix Slade, a wealthy connoisseur of the arts, in 1871 when the School of Fine Art was set up. University College already had a fine paintings and drawings collection at that date, including Flaxman's collection, Turner's, two De Wints and a David Cox. The Slade School began to add to this collection, in a desultory way, worked by its professors and students. During the war, bomb damage to



Augustus John, 'The Artist'

In 1973 Marks & Spencer started selling eight wines in 12 of their stores. They launched a range of 21 wines in November, 1974 and now, in 230 of their 253 stores, the range has increased to over 30 wines, five sherries, port, Christmas and white and red wine-based Sangrias. In addition to their house wines, they now feature "specialty wines" in selected major stores.

The wines are chosen by a committee. Members try 1,700-2,000 samples a year in the London headquarters. These blind tastings include the very finest wines from top producers and shippers; these, say the committee, which includes some not previously educated in wine, form their standards of quality. The blind tastings are conducted without reference to prices—only if a wine is approved will its economics come under scrutiny.

Recently I tasted the current whole range of 39 table and sparkling wines. Two characteristics stand out. Each wine

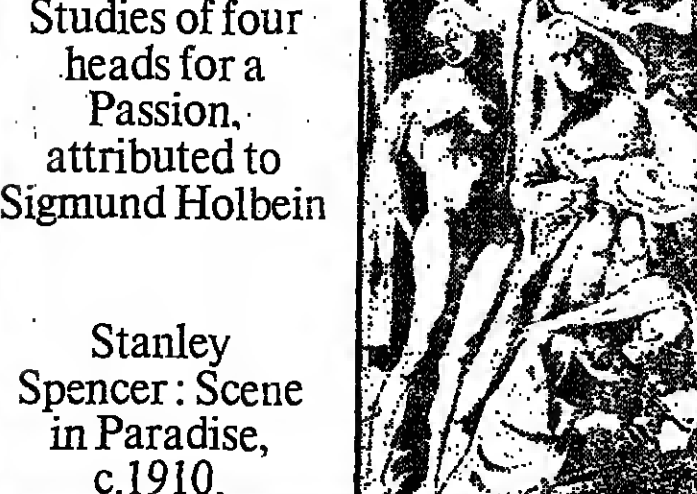
which all the students both male and female were called together, in order to see the Professor paint a head from the 'life'. He invariably used a canvas with a background prepared on it with a wash of raw umber and 'turps'. On this ground he rubbed in the main drawing directly with a brush, also in a new wash, blocking in the main planes and tones rather carefully until the drawing was completely realized in monochrome. Next he worked with solid colours, leaving the shadows for the most part thin and transparent in the under, while loading in the highlights.

This is of course an old and perfectly sound method of painting in oil colours, but it was also monotonous, heavy and often dull. Some of us had heard of free and more exciting methods which were being tried in Paris.

Harrick also recalled how Legros, who would speak only French, was followed round the classes by an assistant, Pinge who would translate the "master's" comments. "What the Professor said was usually 'pas mal', or something equally colourless; but in correcting the life drawings he had one peculiarity: on the smallest opportunity he would cur down the size of the genitals, saying, 'Michael Angelo always made them small'." Sicker said of Legros's painting method that it was "almost a model of how not to do it."

Around the "official" Slade works from University College, which are of course not for sale, the Fine Art Society will be showing a number of Slade works from their own stock which are priced. They have a head of William Strang by Legros at £400. (Rothenstein considered that Strang was "perhaps the ablest" of Legros's pupils.) And they have a head of Legros by Rothenstein, in lithographic chalk, c. 1897, at £350. Oddly, the official University College exhibition contains no work by Sir Edward Poynter, the first professor of the Slade. The Fine Art Society remedy this by showing a life study by him, at £350—possibly a study for his *Audience in Athens*. Mr. Poynter, both of whom committed suicide at an early age; J. D. Innes who died of consumption at 27 (of whom a one-man exhibition will be at the Manchester City Art Gallery from March 3 to April 2); Derwent Lees who was married at 30, and that ill-starred (near) couple Gertler and

David BOMBERG	Drawings & Watercolours	Average—Good Paintings	Museum-quality Paintings
Spencer GORE	£200-£2,000	£1,000-£3,000	£3,000-£10,000
Mark GERTLER	£200-£1,000	£1,000-£3,000	£3,000-£10,000
Harold GILMAN	£200-£1,500	£750-£3,000	£3,000-£8,000
Thomas Cooper GOTH	£100-£200	£300-£1,500	£2,000-£10,000
J. D. INNES	£220-£750	£1,500-£4,000	£6,000-£8,000
Paul NASH	£200-£2,000	£2,000-£5,000	£10,000-£15,000
Augustus JOHN	£150-£2,500	£1,000-£4,000	£10,000-£15,000
Derwent LEES	£150-£450	£750-£1,500	£3,000
Wyndham LEWIS	£400-£2,000	£800-£4,000	£10,000
Amirosa McEVY	£150-£500	£750-£1,500	£2,000-£5,000
Paul NASH	£200-£2,000	£2,000-£5,000	£10,000
C. R. W. NEVINSON	£200-£2,000	£2,000-£5,000	£10,000-£15,000
William ORPEN	£300-£700	£500-£2,000	£3,000
William ROBERTS	£200-£3,000	£600-£6,000	£12,000
William ROTHENSTEIN	£150-£500	£750-£3,000	£8,000
W. R. SICKERT	£200-£2,000	£750-£3,000	£3,000
Matthew SMITH	£100-£750	£1,000-£4,000	£10,000-£15,000
Edward STOTT	£150-£1,250	£750-£3,000	£5,000
Gilbert SPENCER	£150-£750	£450-£2,000	£3,000
Stanley SPENCER	£300-£1,500	£1,000-£5,000	£15,000-£20,000
Philip Wilson STEER	£300-£500	£1,500-£5,000	£10,000-£12,000
William STRANG	£200-£2,000	£200-£1,000	£2,000
Henry TONKS	£150-£500	£400-£2,000	£2,000
H. S. TULKE	£100-£250	£500-£2,000	£5,000
Edward WADSWORTH	£200-£500	£1,000-£4,000	£6,000-£8,000
Enid WALKER	£100-£250	£450-£1,500	£2,000



Stanley Spencer: Scene in Paradise, c.1910.

Drink

Top marks in the wine business

used for these are liked because they make for easy service and sealing up again.

The firm's Medium White and Full Red (each £1.39) are good general drinking. The white, an EEC product being a very clever blend—aromatic, rounded, clean, pleasant as an occasional drink or with food. The red is a cosy wine, robust enough to stand up to British fare such as cold meat with pickles, mustard or salads, because of its fullish, gutsy character.

The Yugoslav Laski Riesling, the only wine not bottled at source (costing £1.79 the litre), should be tried: the grape is sometimes also known as the Welsh Riesling, different from the Rheingiesling of the German wines, and this example is typical, crisp and lingering—unusual in a cheap white wine. The Vin Supérieur Blanc (£1.90 the litre) is a definite bargain, the steely Sauvignon bouquet filling out to an almost sweet fruitiness, ending in a flick of dryness. I also liked the Moselle, Bereich Bernkastel, QbA (£1.59), which has an almost motley fragrance and

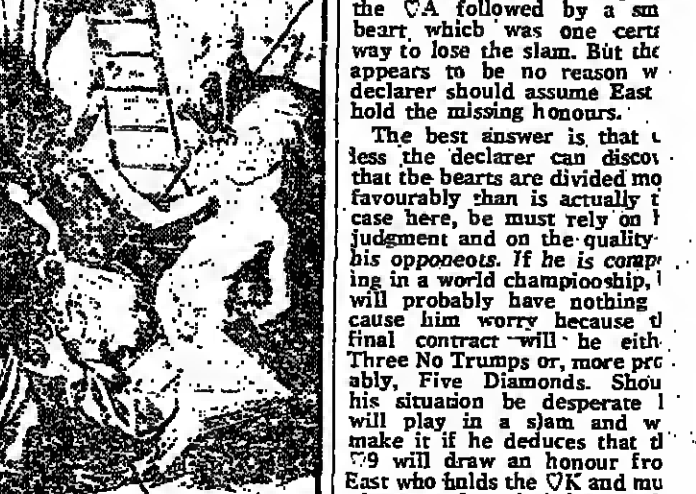
1931 Wilson Steer coastal scene at £350; a Gilbert Spencer, "Nurse and Patient", of 1917 at £450; Spencer Gore's "Interior of the New Bedford" at £425, and a Sicker "Camden Town Murder" drawing at £1,650—a nude woman lying on a bed tiled "L'Affaire de Camden Town".

Mr. Skipton explained: "There was an unsavoury murder in Camden Town, a prostitute; but Sicker, who had been on the stage, always had an eye for a good title. So nude women, sometimes with a clothed man, tended to be given 'Camden Town Murder' titles."

In 1971, The FAS mounted a centenary exhibition, "The Slade Tradition", with an excellent catalogue introduced by T. A. Cross. Mr. Skipton has been one of the Slade tradition and gave his opinion as to which artists the beginner collector should go for. Good draughtsmanship is the basis of the tradition, beginning with Revolver and Legros who were followed by the triumvirate of Brown, Tonks and Wilson Steer, who between them virtually ruled the Slade for the best part of four decades from the early 1880s to 1930, in addition to taking over the New English Art Club and moulding its taste in the manner of the English impressionists. Their strict rule, partly by example and training, but also in reaction against the triumvirate's antagonism to Post-Impressionism, which caused a serious rift between them and their colleagues, Roger Fry.

For the collector of modest means it is from the ranks of the less well-known but still very able students that a rewarding collection can be made. Artists such as Adrian Allin (on whom Mr. Skipton has written an article shortly to appear in *The Connoisseur*), Rudolf Thiele, Gerard Chowne, A. S. Harrick, Albert Rotherston and Randolph Schwabe. A good Augustus John, Nash or Spencer could be among the higher peaks of such a collection. "The Slade also contains its rare and tragic talents", Mr. Skipton said, "such as Maxwell Gordon Lightfoot and John, both of whom committed suicide at an early age; J. D. Innes who died of consumption at 27 (of whom a one-man exhibition will be at the Manchester City Art Gallery from March 3 to April 2); Derwent Lees who was married at 30, and that ill-starred (near) couple Gertler and

David BOMBERG	Drawings & Watercolours	Average—Good Paintings	Museum-quality Paintings
Spencer GORE	£200-£2,000	£1,000-£3,000	£3,000-£10,000
Mark GERTLER	£200-£1,000	£1,000-£3,000	£3,000-£10,000
Harold GILMAN	£200-£1,500	£750-£3,000	£3,000-£8,000
Thomas Cooper GOTH	£100-£200	£300-£1,500	£2,000-£10,000
J. D. INNES	£220-£750	£1,500-£4,000	£6,000-£8,000
Paul NASH	£200-£2,000	£2,000-£5,000	£10,000-£15,000
Augustus JOHN	£150-£2,500	£1,000-£4,000	£10,000-£15,000
Derwent LEES	£150-£450	£750-£1,500	£3,000
Wyndham LEWIS	£400-£2,000	£800-£4,000	£10,000
Amirosa McEVY	£150-£500	£750-£1,500	£2,000-£5,000
Paul NASH	£200-£2,000	£2,000-£5,000	£10,000
C. R. W. NEVINSON	£200-£2,000	£2,000-£5,000	£10,000-£15,000
William ORPEN	£300-£700	£500-£2,000	£3,000
William ROBERTS	£200-£3,000	£600-£6,000	£12,000
William ROTHENSTEIN	£150-£500	£750-£3,000	£8,000
W. R. SICKERT	£200-£2,000	£750-£3,000	£3,000
Matthew SMITH	£100-£750	£1,000-£4,000	£10,000-£15,000
Edward STOTT	£150-£1,250	£750-£3,000	£5,000
Gilbert SPENCER	£150-£750	£450-£2,000	£3,000
Stanley SPENCER	£300-£1,500	£1,000-£5,000	£15,000-£20,000
Philip Wilson STEER	£300-£500	£1,500-£5,000	£10,000-£12,000
William STRANG	£200-£2,000	£200-£1,000	£2,000
Henry TONKS	£150-£500	£400-£2,000	£2,000
H. S. TULKE	£100-£250	£500-£2,000	£5,000
Edward WADSWORTH	£200-£500	£1,000-£4,000	£6,000-£8,000
Enid WALKER	£100-£250	£450-£1,500	£2,000



Stanley Spencer: Scene in Paradise, c.1910.

Bridge

Pair off

I have been out of touch so long with elementary bridge that I have only been able to learn the rules from a book. They are advised, there are either good or bad, and that they must be the large area which lies between. How they can deviate from an instinct for distribution solely by counting points to best of their ability no one attempted to explain; and way in which the average player reaches master status is to find, unless you reckon solely by success at duplicate.

There was a time when expert's prowess was assessed by his bidding. But most are now recognized by their play. A champion is recognized by his play, not by his bidding. In any other way, commentators on the 1 round of this year's world championship were not slow to note that the Americans did stick rigidly to their system or perhaps I should express meaning more clearly by saying that they occasionally opened on weak hands and not confine themselves to card majors—at any rate, the leading pairs played a change of strategy revealed in light corners they did lose sight of their prime objectives, namely, to win most possible with good cards and to lose as little as possible with poor hands. So I was to find an example when champion opened the bid not only on an 11-point hand on a four-card suit headed the queen-jack.

Before I quote such an ample of elasticity, it may be well if you reexamine your habits when playing a rub with a strange partner. (A deal below.)

North South game; de South:

♠ 5 7 8 3
♥ 4 5 6 7 8
♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5
♣ A K Q J 10

♠ 4 3 2
♥ A 10 9 8 7
♦ A J 6 5 4
♣ A J 10 9 8 7

If you are unfamiliar, your partner's methods it is going to make a vast difference in the early stages of the game. For example, if you are One Diamond, One Spade, One No Trump, the serious comes later when a slam is the offering. My leaning always been towards open a four-card major in preference to a four-card minor, but that may be due to my having played frequently France where there used to be a preference for the shorter opening. But since the bid will be played in Diamonds the bid or level of the contract will depend on the ponses. North may drive partner into Six Diamonds supporting Hearts, eg:

South should not have Hearts over Spades in or to show his control. After leading the black suits and driving trumps he must now p the hearts so that he d not lose more than one trick, suggested solution, which peaked to sense of humor was for South to bid a suit towards the ♠Q and whether West showed any hesitation before playing. Decla had then a better chance, deciding whether to play W for the ♠K than if he play the ♠A. Decla had a sm heart, which was one cert way to lose the slam. But the appears to be no reason w declarer should assume East hold the missing honours.

The best answer is that t less the declarer can discov that the hearts are divid mo favourably than is actually case here, he must rely on judgment and on the quality his opponents. If he is comping in a world championship, I will be happy to be a witness cause him to work because a final contract will be eith Three No Trumps or, more pr ably, Five Diamonds. Shou his situation be desperate I will play a slam and w make it if he deduces that d ♠9 will draw an honour fr East who holds the ♠K and m play away from it (when spad and clubs are eliminated).

In the deal row which I r ferred above, the North Sou pairs were more successful w opened the bidding and the either played in game, I doubled their opponents in saving bid.

No score; dealer South:

♠ J 5 5
♥ A 8 2
♦ A 4 2
♣ 10 7 4

♠ 10 7 4
♥ 5 4 3
♦ 10 5 3
♣ K 10 5 3

♠ A 8 7 4
♥ A 3
♦ A 3
♣ 10 9 7

Only one North South pair scored 500 on the deal although the best defence de present an exceptional problem. North led the ♠Q to the ♠A and South had to take an awkward decision. He considered it too dangerous to unde lead his ♠A, so he played for safety by leading the ♠J. A declarer would not be able to discard his losing hearts. North won the diamond with the ♠A and rose to the occasion by leading the ♠K followed by the ♠2. He obtained his ruff and with it the highest score made at the six tables where this hand was played; it would not have been surprising if the hands been thrown in.

Edward Mayer

Travel

The land where East meets West

There are several reasons why I should not write about Turkey as a holiday destination in 1978. The country is suffering from severe economic and political problems. Its currency has recently devalued by 10 per cent and prices are rising faster than hotels and restaurants. This year has brought the defeat of Mr Demirel's coalition government.

Yet I do write about Turkey because, I believe it is a remarkable country and deserves recognition despite its problems. The chances are strong that the International Monetary Fund will intervene (as it did in respect of our own economy) and Turkey's position will improve.

It has much to offer the holidaymaker and the mystery fan as far as I am concerned is that so few Britons have discovered its inland and coastal attractions. Its Mediterranean coast is just about the last southern stretch of undeveloped (comparatively speaking) and I would have thought that the British who discovered such regions as Algarve would by now have discovered Turkey's turquoise coast.

If you mention Turkey to a Briton, however, he is likely to think in terms of Istanbul, a city which is a host of tourists, and west with the bright kind of travelogue ingrown tourists and the necessary riot of intrigue. Although the so-called "white boredom" of a city where foreigners are a threat to foreigners like the plague, it is quite a fascinating and quite irresistible place.

On my own visits I have survived the traffic and would not hesitate to recommend a short

holiday there to anyone trying to decide on a winter break destination. Such offers are currently available—long weekends to various cities—and Istanbul has more than enough to keep you occupied.

If you are thinking further ahead—to 'a longer holiday' during the summer, then Istanbul can occupy only part of your plans. In fact, even though it is, it does not represent the sum of Turkey's appeal.

Time and mobility will enable you to reach the superb archaeological sites of the Aegean and Mediterranean coast regions, the beaches and the developing resorts, and in this respect it is the combining of a paradise that Turkey, which desperately needs the foreign currency, has not made more of the Turkish Maritime Line's southern cruises. The main route is a 12-day voyage from Istanbul right round the coast to Iskenderiyyah, back again, with a variety of call stops and a port of optional shore excursions.

According to Mr Robin Murray-Phillips, whose company, Executive Travel Ltd, specialises in holidays to Turkey, the only ship of 8,000 ton Akdeniz will be operating these voyages in 1978 and cabins are "like gold dust".

The TML management hopes one day to replace its fleet with a new vessel and operate the cruises as "foreign currency earners." They must be about the best value for money in Mediterranean cruises," he commented recently, but his brochure bears a warning: "If you cannot commit yourself well in advance, then a TML cruise is not for you because these cruises are perhaps the most sought after tourist facility in Turkey and the number of bookings are simply out of the question."

These voyages are, in any case, more suited to those who

wish to sample the coastal region rather than explore it thoroughly. It rewards thorough exploration, and a good combination would be to visit a few of the more interesting places here with five days in Istanbul.

As far as this stretch of coast is concerned, Antalya is one of the chief resorts and also the location of the main airport.

It is placed as a centre for touring in the same region as the good hotels of the Hotel Antalya is easily the best and used by British tour companies. The town has some interesting archeological sites within its walls, including the superbly preserved Hadrian's gate. Of the neighbouring sites, the Roman city of Perge lies a dozen miles to the east and Aspendos some ten more miles beyond that.

Aspendos should certainly not be missed for here is the best preserved ancient theatre in the world. A favourite trick of the tour guides is to have you sit in the stalls to the most tier of seats while they talk from the stage in conversational tones, or drop a coin to demonstrate the superb acoustics. The theatre is not merely dead shell, incidentally, but is still used for the Antalya-Aspendos festival for the performance of classical plays.

A little farther along the coast is Side, the site of an ancient city and a Roman temple as well as an ancient city, and the combination promises to be a fascinating one. At the moment Side has few hotels. The Turkel and Cenner/Ahmeta hotels are the only ones.

And if you are looking for accommodation there. Both are used by British tour companies. The theatre at Side, though not so well preserved as that at Aspendos, is a magnificent sight. I had to pick a few more places along this particular stretch of coast. I think it would be Side which

impressed me considerably during my visit.

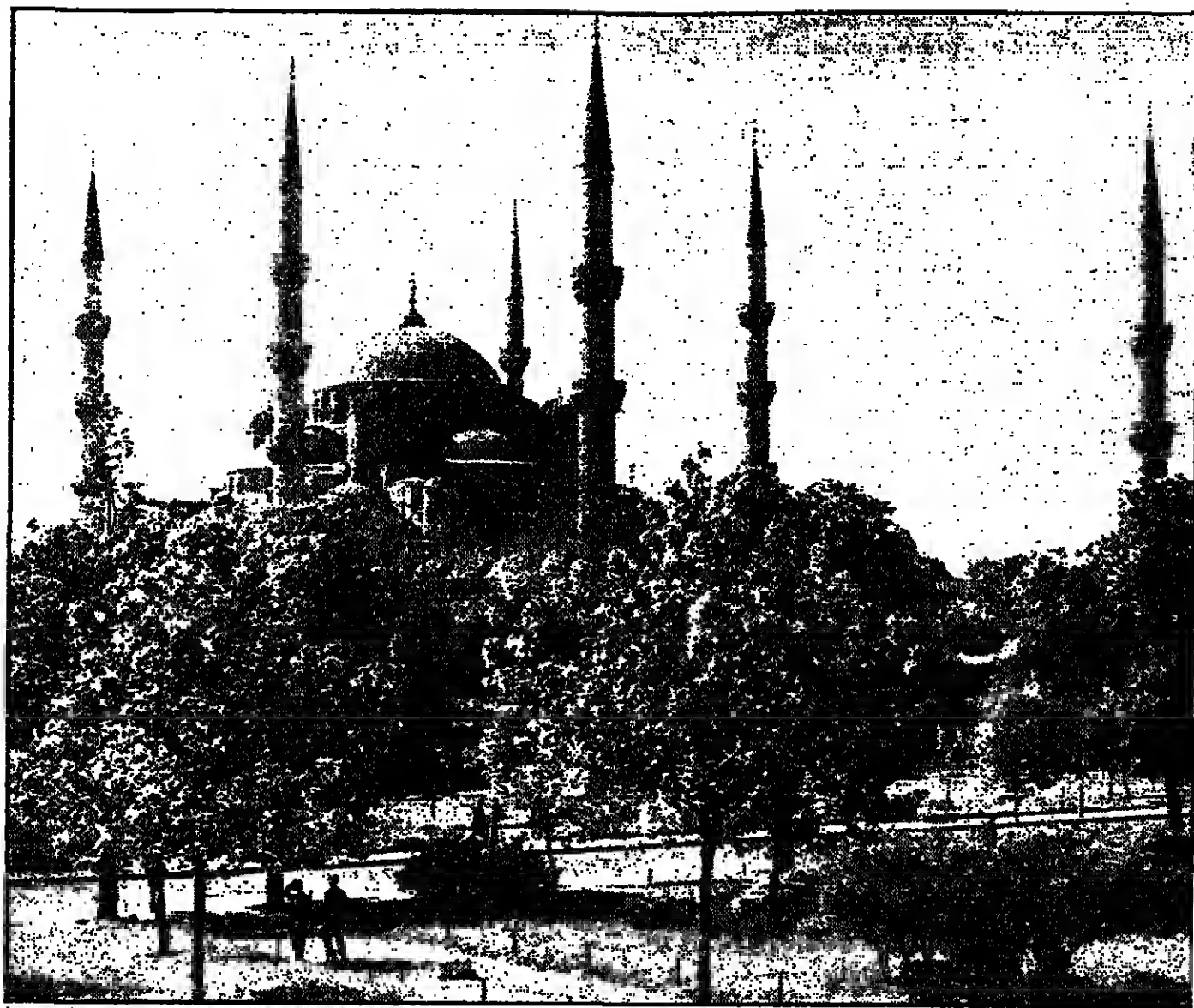
If you are looking for the best scenery along this coast, then you will find it between Silfkke and Mersin, much farther to the east. The mountains lie fairly well back from the coast between Antalya and Alanya, so the country is not so rugged as the previous. It is beyond Gazipaşa that the coast road starts to twist and climb and afford more spectacular views.

As in all countries, the visitor on an inclusive holiday will find that the convenience of excursions arranged locally, and such trips are available from Antalya for the independent holidaymaker as well. My comments about the suicidal traffic of Istanbul apply also to the country. Travelling down south and I would urge you to bear this in mind if you are thinking of hiring a car.

However, the traveller (as opposed to the tourist) ought not to be put entirely off the country. The Ministry of Tourism, and the aforementioned Executive Travel Ltd does offer itineraries for such holidays which will take you further into the country. Worth considering, if you have the time to spare and the desire to see the Turkey that lies behind the bustle of Istanbul and the southern coast strip. Make a point if you do, to give yourself of getting into the strange and spellbinding world of Cappadocia, which lies in the heart of the Anatolian plateau.

Enquiries and bookings office at 141, Sloane Street, London, SW1X 9BJ. Several other tour companies offer holidays to Turkey and a list of these, along with further information, may be obtained from the Turkish Tourist Office at 49 Conduit Street, London, W1R 0EP.

John Carter



Istanbul, The Blue Mosque

Gardening

Small is not so beautiful

Still the seed merchants continue to produce a stream of new flower varieties—most of them little dwarfs. I remember a French friend of mine talking about a mutual acquaintance whose new house he had visited saying "Pauvre mur, quel plaisir ça fait mur!"—"The walls! He is full of taste, all the walls!" I feel much the same about the seed novelties—they are charming, no doubt, but mainly dwarf.

The seed growers' reasoning is that gardeners are small these days, so they must have small plants. The weaknesses of this reasoning are that, in the first place there are still millions of reasonably sized gardens and in the second place: few gardens have soil as fertile and well watered as it should be. Six to twelve little pygmy plants seldom grow to their full potential and we end with having half a tiddly plant.

To be fair we must accept that the really lucrative sales of flower seeds are to the commercial growers who raise plants to send to market. Thus squat, dwarf plants that can be packed as close together as possible in market boxes are in great demand. And of course there are now millions of plants sold for tubs, window boxes, hanging baskets and small beds in front gardens in series or on a terrace. The Britain in Bloom campaign, now linked to the France and Belgium in the Entente Florale contest has vastly stimulated the use of such plants and the horticultural industry has not been slow to leech on to this development.

So, if the majority of this year's flower novelties are dwarfs, do not blame my selection. We have, for example, the dwarf perennials delphiniums "Blue Fountains" 1, 3 and 6, which make good tall spikes on 21-22 inch high 11 shades of blue, mauve and even white. Seeds are sown like any other delphiniums in spring to flower next year.

One of the most exciting novelties is *Alyssum* "Wonderland" (1, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8) which makes low mats of flowers on plants up to 10in across. Their colour is a unique red, like a plant I raised on the scene years too late—it, with white *alysiums* of blue lobelias would have figured in many a patriotic fanning for Jubilee Year. But there will be other occasions no doubt for showing the flag in flowers. This *alysium*, foci-

dentally, is the first British seed novelty to win an award—a bronze medal in the Fleno-select international seed trials.

Another useful dwarf hardy annual is *Convolvulus* "Blue Flash" (3, 5, 7, 8) which has large blue flowers, blue and white and yellow centre. Many people are frightened to grow these annual convolvulus varieties because they have suffered so much from their pestiferous percolous relatives. But they do not arrive. Unlike the convolvulus varieties are not invasive, make neat plants and cause no trouble. Also we are not over tired in blue flowered annuals so *Silene farmoea* (3, 4, 6 and 8), *Silene acaulis* (3, 4, 6 and 8) and *Silene* in the Fleno-select trial are also welcome. This half hardy annual, has blue-purple flowers from July to October. It is not a dwarf but it is up to 20 cm high.

For those most of breeding progress in recent years is to be seen in marigolds (varieties of tagetes), penumias and busy lizzies (varieties of impatiens) and with all these plants we can have a goodly selection of F1 hybrids in the same group. It is important to choose one in a manner of heights and colours that suit your needs. Many people have been pleasantly surprised to find that the busy lizzies which they have seen with one or two plants, tended with loving care by their secretary at the office receptionist, are excellent garden plants for sun or shade. The orange flowered varieties, though, are best in high shade as they are so "burn" in full sun.

Breeding for scent is always a bit and miss affair with any flowers and ever since I was a child I have been struggling to fix a strain of cyclamene that has scent. Now several firms offer fragrant cyclamene (3, 5, 6, 7 and 8). The real cyclamene, seen as I found in the woods, is a sweet and pervasive. Incidentally, the silver variegated strains of cyclamene which you may either raise from seed or buy to see at florists' shops and to be able to endure the warm, dry atmosphere of the modern centrally heated home better than the ordinary plain green-leaved varieties.

Several firms I see are offering collections of seeds for large and beautifully illustrated catalogue Unwins have introduced to celebrate the

seventy-fifth anniversary of the firm's foundation, Sheila Macqueen, the world-famous flower arranger, has contributed an article in which she lists some of her favourite flowers and plants, with two very remarkable photographs. One shows an arrangement of fresh flowers and grasses, the other shows the same flowers but dried and very attractive they both are.

Uovins also include in the catalogue a section on easily grown conifer and shrub seeds. If you are not in a hurry and wish to save a few pounds, a selection of these seeds could be well worth while. Such pleoploid conifers as *Cryptomeria japonica*, *Juniperus communis* and lovely flowering shrubs as wisteria, *Cornus coccinea*, the smoke bush, and *Daphne mezereum*, are also included in the list.

Many people I find do not realize how easy it is to grow some of the charming cacti from seed—or do they realize that some of the easiest cacti like mammillarias give gorgeous flowers oo quite small plants. A mixed packet of cactus seeds sown in a pot of any good seed sowing and covered and stood on a sunny sunny warm windowsill should produce a dozen or more plants. The seeds of the different types take different times to germinate, so you just prick off the seedlings when they are large enough and sit back for some more to appear—they may go on appearing for months.

(1) Bircher's Selected Seeds, 60, Chesham Road, Slough, Croydon, CR8 4AS, Surrey.

(2) Crampthorn Ltd., Cuton Mill, Chelmsford, CM2 6PD, Essex.

(3) Samuel Doble and Son Limited, Upper Dee Mills, Langollen, Chwyd. LL20 5SL.

(4) E. Marshall and Co. Ltd., Regal Road, Wexham Lane, Wisbech, Cambs. PE13 2RF.

(5) The Scottish Seed House (Alexander & Brown), PO Box No. 13, South Methven Street, Perth, PH1 5NY, Scotland.

(6) Suttons Seeds Ltd., Hele Road, Torquay, Devon, TA1 2QJ.

(7) Thompson & Morgao (Ipswich) Ltd., London Road, Ipswich, IP2 0BA.

(8) W. J. Unwin Limited, Histon, Cambridge.

Roy Hay

The Times Gardening Offer...

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These boots were used on Chris Bonington's 1975 Mount Everest expedition and in spite of a 180-mile march during the expedition, people who wore the boots for most of the day were, in effect, small streamers; the members were delighted to find that their feet remained completely dry. More important, however, was that the members did not suffer from a single blister, which makes them well suited to the approach march from Kamandu to the base camp.

The uppers are made of dark tan grease-impregnated leather. The soles are of PVC material, the genuine Duramarc's "air cushion" design, which makes for easy and comfortable walking. The material is resistant to oil, fat, acid, petrol and alkali and the soles are repairable. The boots have a bellows tongue and are fitted with six eyelets. They are offered in full sizes only, 4-5 boys and 6-12 girls, and also suitable for women. The sole for ladies' feet are often narrower than men's, so a lady would probably have to wear a thick pair of wooden soles which, after all, is no hardship in cold weather.

Several years ago we offered the Folco Model Three secure an which one of the

handles revolves and we have had many requests to offer this unique tool again. This we are happy to do and, in addition, a new, smaller light-weight model with normal handles which is excellent for less "exacting" work and ideal for ladies to use.

What is most interesting, however, is that the manufacturer has offered to give us a conditional guarantee on these secateurs for five years and I would think, something unique in the secateur or, indeed, in any other trade, servicing, free of charge including spare parts for life.

What a nice twenty-first birthday or wedding present! This guarantee does not apply, however, if the secateur is used as a tool of the trade.

The point about the heavy-duty secateur is that one handle has a revolving, solid-shaped elastic band. The effect of this is that it does not rub the skin of your fingers as the cutting elastic handle, if them and you avoid blisters or soreness which may happen if you have to do a lot of pruning with ordinary secateurs. It is a secateur for the owner of a large garden with, say, an orchard, or many roses and other shrubs which have to be pruned. It is also ideal for ladies whose skin may be rather more tender than a man's.

Where there is only a normal amount of pruning to be done the Model Six is also a pleasure to use. For a small, compact secateur, thanks to its design it is remarkably powerful.

R. H.

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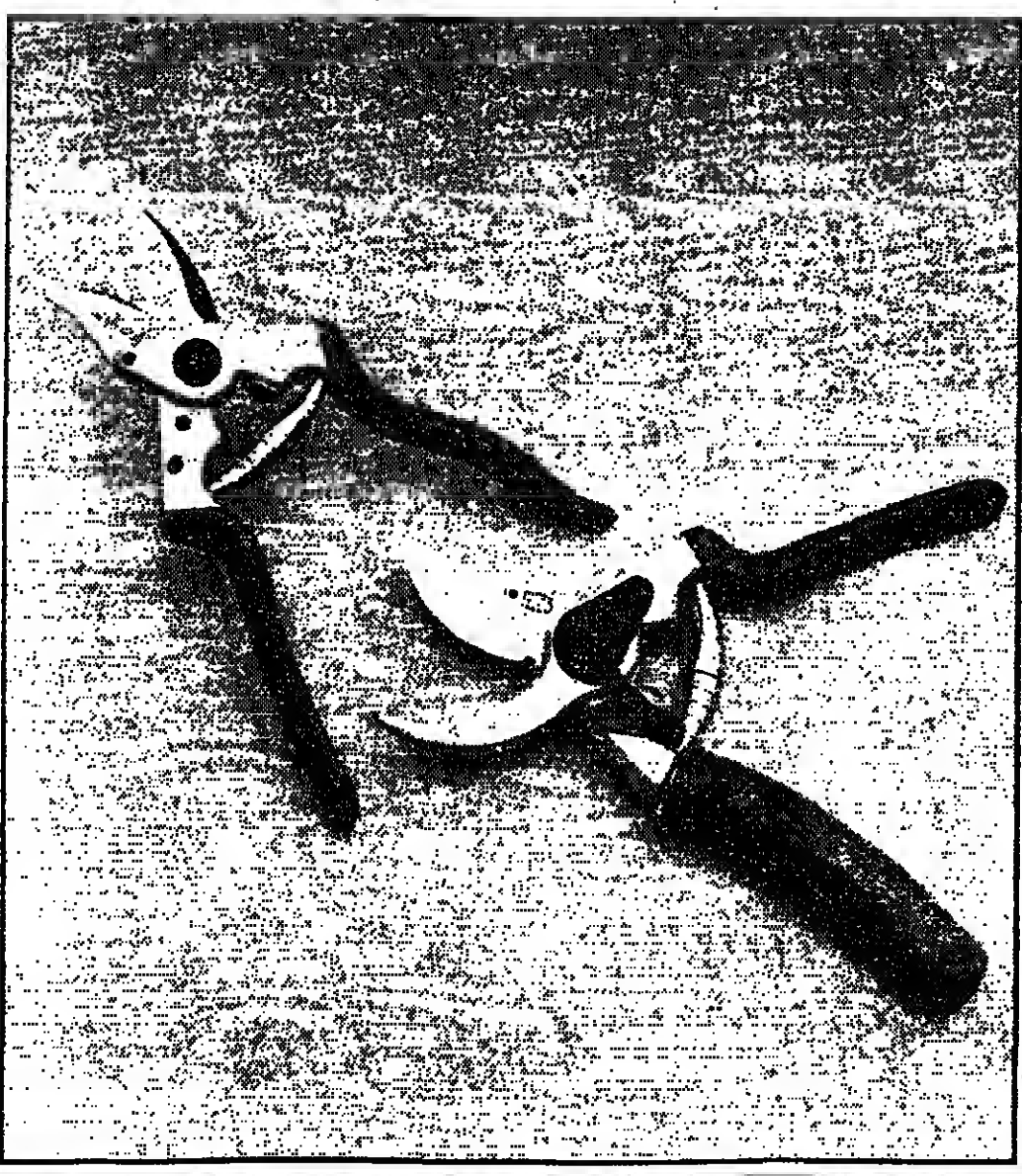
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George Hutchinson

The would-be saviours must first save themselves

It is, I think, true to say that since becoming leader of the Conservative Party nearly three years ago, in February, 1975, Margaret Thatcher has commended herself to most people who are not of unyielding socialist persuasion either as supporters of the Labour Party or of the smaller parties further to the left, the Communists and others. Most, but not all—not even all those who call themselves Conservatives.

As we know from a succession of by-elections, many former Labour voters have renounced their old allegiance in favour of the Tories, although we cannot yet be sure of a lasting conversion. Similarly, the Liberals have suffered heavy losses, and their decline seems likely to continue to a level threatening ruin as a parliamentary force.

In the light of recent trends, Tory prospects in what is almost certainly an election year should thus be rather optimistic. They would be stronger still but for an obstacle—a stumbling block—presented by the party itself, or some of its members.

As we are seeing, and not for the first time, the Conservative Party contains some of its own worst enemies—the fanatics, the Jeremiahs, the shrill in tone, weak in spirit, trembling at any setback or reverse to their electoral fortunes. Because the economy, or rather our immediate financial condition, shows improvement, they are already exulting (and misrepresenting) Mr Callaghan as "more conservative and safer" than the Tories, and wondering aloud—whether we would not do bet-

ter to settle for a "moderate" Labour government which "knows how to handle the unions" instead of returning the Conservatives. To listen to them, you might suppose that the Tory record is one of irredeemable contentlessness in the sphere of industrial relations. It is not.

This outlook, as I have noted more than once, is particularly prevalent in the City. It is short-sighted and reckless. Carried too far, or even a little further, it could cost the Tories the election—and with another defeat and a working majority for Labour, an irretrievable transformation in our affairs, not least to the acute personal disadvantage and discomfort of those Tory "realists" who had helped to bring it about. We could quickly acquire some (I do not say all) of the characteristics of an East European state, with the imposition of further restrictions, regulations and controls on private initiative, not to mention the introduction of a wealth tax on personal assets valued at £100,000 and upwards.

"Callaghan factor" in the City, now so notoriously indulgent to the present government, are playing with fire, and unless restrained may engulf the rest of us as well as themselves. For my part, I am more interested in the rest of us.

Speaking for myself, I have no large interests in protection, they are already exulting (and misrepresenting) Mr Callaghan as "more conservative and safer" than the Tories, and wondering aloud—whether we would not do bet-

ter to settle for a "moderate" Labour government which "knows how to handle the unions" instead of returning the Conservatives. To listen to them, you might suppose that the Tory record is one of irredeemable contentlessness in the sphere of industrial relations. It is not.

This outlook, as I have noted more than once, is particularly prevalent in the City. It is short-sighted and reckless. Carried too far, or even a little further, it could cost the Tories the election—and with another defeat and a working majority for Labour, an irretrievable transformation in our affairs, not least to the acute personal disadvantage and discomfort of those Tory "realists" who had helped to bring it about. We could quickly acquire some (I do not say all) of the characteristics of an East European state, with the imposition of further restrictions, regulations and controls on private initiative, not to mention the introduction of a wealth tax on personal assets valued at £100,000 and upwards.

"Callaghan factor" in the City, now so notoriously indulgent to the present government, are playing with fire, and unless restrained may engulf the rest of us as well as themselves. For my part, I am more interested in the rest of us.

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Mr Heath has not been able to extend any similar warmth, good will, consideration and co-operation towards Mrs Thatcher. His attitude cannot be anything but hurtful to her, and no doubt she feels it keenly, for Mrs Thatcher is a lady of sensitivity. She has received far more courtesy from her parliamentary opponents, Mr Callaghan and Sir Harold Wilson, than was ever accorded her by Mr Heath. It is very regrettable.

Friends of Mr Heath are increasingly alarmed by his refusal to uphold Mrs Thatcher as an election draws ever closer. What they are saving, in effect, is that if he cannot be nice he might at least attempt some show of respect for the party he is serving. Mr Heath, however, still a Tory in mind and heart, no longer takes the Conservative whip, and (alas) seems lost to the party for ever. His is an immeasurable loss, for he retains and will no doubt continue to exercise great political influence. Mr Heath is in a different category from the Edward Heath spent (or endured) five years as leader of the Opposition before attaining the premiership in 1970, a lengthy, testing and trouble-

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Farewell

With that, dear readers, I take leave of this Saturday column. To my great regret, our weekend engagement must now be broken. Since the column was introduced in 1973, I have received many expressions of encouragement and interest, all deeply appreciated. I thank you for your kindness and your indulgence.

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Fred Emery

Getting tuned in to the election wavelengths

When last reporting on elections, in the United States, it was often my lot to try explaining to puzzled and admiring Americans how British politics could make do with a sprint campaign of weeks compared with their wearying years-long marathons. Perhaps, on the evidence of the New Year's first fortnight, the answer may even more clearly than we do.

Campaign '78 (79), as their TVs would call it, is on. Anticipation is much discussed at Westminster and it is spreading in Whitehall and certainly causing heavy work in regional party headquarters in the early hours, will probably feign his customary innocence of all the swirling annals. He has confided to others that he would ideally like to go all the way into 1979.

But his presidential-style trip to south Asia is seen to have launched a ready-made campaign for all seasons between now and next autumn—adding the benign statesman's image to that of the firm leader at home.

And Mrs Thatcher needed little encouragement to climb the unpopulated Scottish stair with a powerful rejoinder—which now promises that a future Conservative government, over pay, would get on better with trade union members than does Labour.

David Steel chimed in with his appealing claim for Liberal credit in his accomplished political broadcast. The other minority parties at Westminster seemed to have been left with a choice between the various Ulster MPs, and the Scottish Nationalists divided over leaping too soon into a campaign.

One reason for this perhaps premature start is that many MPs agree that things are again turning less predictable than they seem, and this stirs professional nervousness.

True, Mr Callaghan returns home with rhymes, longings and a pretty good holding firm in the face of the firemen's strike, the refusal to do any of the backdoor deals which his knowing opponents six weeks ago insisted were unavoidable, has turned out to be a triumph of his Prime Minister's ship.

A Cabinet colleague says that his careful avoidance of name calling while standing rock-firm has encouraged virtually all of them to believe they even "workers' strike" would not be allowed to intimidate the Government. From again, will he need, and receive the power stations, if they have to.

In general, the belief has strengthened that a multi-party system and a more "win-win" approach to the economy, "win-win" being Mr Callaghan's on the politico-economic firmament cannot be calculated more favourably than to the autumn.

when price inflation ought to be near its lowest, wages creases having optimum effect and voters serene.

The Government could hope by then to have met commitment—the passage of Scotland Bill (if not the referendum). It is deemed cruel by all its MPs there) to be to show that devolution delivered at last. Considerations are also being given to election and referendum on same day.

But will we get that far? The theory that if things that good, then the answer must be wrong, Mr Callaghan will be reviewing everything that could spoil it. Some of the possible upsets lie the plain.

First is the Lib-Lab pact. The Liberal activists near St day defy Mr Steel—and he now deliberately provoked to a showdown—and vote break off the deal with Mr Callaghan then the whole structure of parliamentary ing could be shaken loose.

Nothing would be a mar. The Liberals, as Thatcher mused last week that (arguably) sounding an interview, could not be counted upon to vote instantly against the Government. But Mr S makes clear that without pact there is no point in delaying an election.

Then there is the unpredictable effect of those so-called "seemingly parliamentary" votes. Mr Michael Foot, whom Mr Callaghan reputably seems to have lost his touch, is now sounding a new feeling. The struggle for Varley's written dealings, the British Steel Corpora could make the Govern look inept, at the very least. It could embarrass further under the hammer, splits on the Labour bench.

The left wing are also split over the priority of the steel industry, or of the retaining steel jobs at a ever cost—quite apart from the division over giving the B a vote to vote whether Varley should comply or a.

Further upsets on the devolution Bills, or the European Assembly Elections Bill are to be ruled out.

Any or several of these combinations could lead to the attractions of a spring budget election.

The other unworkable thing just ahead is the EU North byelection. If, as the more possible of the the Conservatives regain a new calculations become operative. A heavy swing to Conservatives would rein Mr Callaghan's reported ferocity to stay on to the of the term. Stay tuned Campaign '78 (79).

Why India's 'low-profile' disaster failed to move the world

"If you maintain a low profile it will stop people over-reacting," said the pseudo-sagacious glibbedog who has become familiar today. But what do you do when the phrase "low profile" is not an over-worked image almost evacuated of meaning, but literally a physical fact and the effect of it is to mute people's reactions distressingly? This is what has happened in regard to the cyclone and tidal wave which hit Andhra Pradesh in southern India on November 13 last, and the cyclone with consequent serious flooding which struck a part of Tamil Nadu some days earlier.

On December 12-14 I toured the worst-affected areas of Andhra Pradesh as one of a three-man team from the World Council of Churches. The members were Mr Stanley Mitton, the council's emergency officer, and Dr N. C. Keulemans, an agro-ecologist with wide experience in the Third World,

now serving the Dutch Reformed Churches. Mr Mitton said that in several years of the world's worst disasters he had seen nothing worse. But despite the close ties binding Britain and India the appeal made here by the Disaster's Emergency Committee (representing the many overseas aid charities) has only slowly climbed to about half the sum achieved for the Guatemalan earthquake in February, 1976. Why?

Many guesses could be made. "Oh, there are always floods in India," may be one reaction, so that the sheer scale of this disaster is simply not grasped. Or it may be that the very shattering of communications that the character of the disaster involved, which delayed any film getting to our television screens, lessened the impact of the appeal made primarily on that medium. Have our minds been so saturated with images that our imaginations remain

unkindled without that visual reporting? But it may be that the basic problem was just that physically it was a low profile disaster. It was the great low-lying coastal plain with hardly a tiny eminence to relieve it that was so vulnerable to the immense tidal wave that swept inland for some 18 miles, and then swept back sucking with it a mass of human beings and animals. You could not take a single picture or even a group of pictures that would encapsulate memorably the scale of the horror in the way that you could with an earthquake.

In fact the full horror of it only came home to our visiting team when we realized that we had been driving hour after hour and were still seeing scenes of total devastation in the area affected by the cyclone—which was far larger than that savaged by the even more destructive tidal wave.

The small factories in this

predominantly rural area had all their roofs wholly ripped off and the inside of them looked like bomb destruction. Reinforced steel joists were bent over like safety pins. Where clumps of tall palm-trees still stood they had usually been decapitated as if by a giant's sickle. The villages had largely collapsed, and only the fact that the homes were of pitifully fragile construction had—in the area affected only the cyclone—reduced the magnitude of the death toll.

In the tidal wave area the absence of even slight prominences in the low-lying land had added to the toll of life. In one village, Koduru, a Baptist pastor led us to his 80-year-old small and simple chapel in which 70 people had been saved, including his own family, by precariously clinging to the rafters while the wave struck the village. Where there was no such possibility of climbing the

necessary 20 feet or so above the wave—or where the building was unable to stand the force of the water—many perished. (Demonstrating the force I saw one large sea-going fishing boat standing inconspicuously on the road five kilometres inland, borne in on the flood of the tidal wave.)

How many died? Government figures have been about 20,000; but many responsible community and church leaders whom we met, while appreciating the government's desire to avoid panic, spoke of figures as high as 100,000. An army of migrants was in the area to harvest the abundant crop which was to be lost under the sea water. How many of them died? How many bodies were swept out to sea with the force of the retreating wave? How many corpses, already putrescent, were hurriedly buried more or less where found?

But the number who died in a disaster is only an index of

its magnitude. It is the living who can be helped. Two million were rendered homeless. At least a million were in desperate immediate need of relief. (As we left, the Churches' Auxiliary for Social Action was feeding 100,000 a day, and other agencies were doing that work on a similar scale.)

And in the coming months there is the immense task of leaching the salt out of the soil (to which the agronomist member of our team directed his mind), and of re-bussing a multitude, wherever possible, providing within the village some secure community building to serve for welfare purposes now and for safety purposes if disaster comes again.

It is not too late for people to react to this low-profile disaster.

Kenneth Slack

The author is Director of Christian Aid.

Who else but Ian McEwan would put a lover in ape's clothing?

For a writer of always black, often repelling, short stories, Ian McEwan appears a gentle, untroubled man. A lot of people tell him that. He says that when he reads reviews of his stories, with headlines like "perverse and poisonous" he is surprised. He says, disconcertingly, that the nastiness comes from him. But that in see just perversion in them is to ignore their compassion, and to deny the blackness that is in us all. "I believe that those who deny it most vigorously are those who have totally identified their social self with their self, and who are under a duty to three in the morning and wonders when they are going to die." It is this crack between the two selves, this land of the unconscious made nightmarish by the fact that we force ourselves to believe in a particular way, that Ian McEwan is writing about.

Neither *First Love*, *Last Rites*, which won the 1976 Somerset Maugham Award, nor in between the sheets, published next week, needs justification. The stories they contain are as economically written and compelling as they are chilling, with macabre images and a horror underpinning things—butterflies, rats—that become menacing and oppressive. Many of the reader's initial naive assumptions are gradually, horrifyingly shown to be quite false: the lover is in fact an ape, the mistress a clothes' dummy.

But because his stories have a strong and often bizarre sexual content, and it is present in all of them, they need understanding. McEwan believes that sexuality contains the price of civilization. "I accept as postulate that the unconscious exists, and that sexual behaviour is to a large extent socially determined behaviour," says Ian McEwan. "I simply don't think we are born heterosexual designed to copulate inside marriage in the missionary position. You have only to be around young children to sense the omni-directional sense of their sexuality."

Ian McEwan started writing short stories while a third year student reading English literature at Sussex University in 1970. Influenced by a Lavistone master at his school, Wolston Hall outside Ipswich (his father was an army officer stationed abroad), he had until then seen himself as a future university lecturer. "I had



Photograph of Ian McEwan by Harry Holt

assumed that the preaching of texts, like being a member of the clergy, was a very splendid and meaningful business.

Reading Kafka and Freud as compulsory texts, at the age of 20, gave him a sudden new interest in himself, and an impatience with qualified and footnoted judgments. None of his early writings (an adaptation for television of Thomas Mann's *Tonio Kröger*, with 30 characters and 200 extras, short stories and radio plays) were used but he kept on writing. At East Anglia doing an M.A., he was fortunate in finding Angus Wilson and Malcolm Bradbury, who encouraged him.

During that year he wrote very hard indeed: between 25 and 30 short stories, four of which were to form the basis of his first collection. But McEwan, "I simply don't think we are born heterosexual designed to copulate inside marriage in the missionary position. You have only to be around young children to sense the omni-directional sense of their sexuality."

Ian McEwan chose short stories because he needed to try out different voices. When he talks of his characters, he speaks of them as independent beings, with wills of their own, who reveal themselves to him

only capriciously. He liked the form, the demand the short story makes on the writer: "no excess baggage and nothing superfluous. I was always interested in rigorous, dense prose where one sentence takes you a bit further and not sideways."

And he wanted different narrators, some of them manic and obsessive, others foolish and arrogant, who embodied "all the dislocated fears, anxieties and fantasies of my own" but which allowed plays of irony, and a certain distance between narrator and author. This distance was important to him. It gave him the means of conveying his compassion, and in any case he could not have sustained the irony for 70,000 words, particularly as he wrote slowly, systematically, allowing his voice to build up sentence by sentence. "I go in immense concentrations not to plan. I hope the story will hang together with great structural integrity by being unconsciously formed, and not planned."

His novel, the first out of five, is a novel that he has actually finished, is narrated by a 16-year-old boy. It is about the distribution of power in human relationships, and particularly within families, "the oedipal strains that threaten family relationships but at the same time cement them." It was a seven or eight word plan for each chapter and a situation "ripe for the things

I wanted to happen", but without the irony and the distancing.

The protective and ironical distancing has in fact been growing tighter to his more recent stories. *Postcards*, the story of a young man in Los Angeles, is almost without it, and, says Ian McEwan, a step in the direction his is now going. He sees that because his novel is a recapitulation and synthesis of everything that interested him in writing *First Love*, *Last Rites*, he may now be over wanting to write about what he calls children and adolescent material. More interested now in the large scale economic forces that order people's lives, he is nonetheless worried about what his writing will take. "I don't want," he says, "well then, I want to write a novel, a mediated, sophisticated short story or the novelist's equivalent."

Ian McEwan is 30 this year, a slight and serious man with round glasses and soft brown hair. He talks as he writes, quietly, using language with accuracy and imagination, but little humour, as if there were no place for it, just on the moment. He lives in Stockwell in south London, in a row of Victorian buildings, heavy and depressing on the outside, but inside made pleasant by what he has done to his flat: green walls and carpet, brightly coloured rug, framed photographs of American Indians, a

How two British royal exiles turned up in Hungary

Archaeological excavations in south Hungary are providing tantalizing clues to the Continental odyssey of two English princes who were allotted a key role in Edward the Confessor's desperate plan to keep the crown of England in Anglo-Saxon hands and thus avoid a Norman take-over.

More importantly they shed fresh light on the "missing" exile years of the Aethelings through whom thanks to a marriage contracted to Hungary, a tall prince—the ancient House of Wessex became linked to the present British royal family.

The murder plots, chivalrous deeds, royal romances and deep friendships of the exile years of Edward and Edmund Aetheling offer vital new material for a royal roots story which begins in the turbulent years preceding the 1066 Norman conquest.

In spite of their crucial importance for British history—and the roots of the royal family—virtually nothing is now known about the Aethelings' European tribulations or how they escaped the terrible fate of the "two princes" after Canute the Dane had usurped the throne of Wessex in 1017.

The dig at the Hungarian village of Meskenád, search of an ancient church has unearthed the foundations of a chateau in an adjoining area locally known as "the castle-mound" and which is assumed to be the "land of the English Princes", referred to in several medieval Hungarian codices as "Terra Britannorum".

The available documentary evidence although philologically not sufficiently investigated, points to Terra Britannorum being the location of huge estates donated by King Andrew I of Hungary to the exiled Aethelings.

The archaeological finds in Hungary appear to tie in with what is now known about the fate of the Aethelings. Even the authoritative reference books of Britain are remarkably short on facts.

The Dictionary of National Biography, for instance, confines itself to stating that "Edward and his brother, Edmund, when yet infants, are said to have been sent to Sweden." It adds that the princes might have "passed to

Hungary before 1038, when King St Stephen died. No trace of the exiles has, however, been found in the histories of Hungary.

A closer examination of medieval chronicles, however, allows to fill in the missing years of the Aethelings' exile and to establish that Hungary was not the first but the last of a number of European countries to offer succour and refuge.

The drama of saving the lives of the rightful heirs to the English throne in 1017, when Edmund was aged about four and Edward a mere babe—greatly exercised the imagination of chroniclers. According to Florence of Worcester, Canute thought that it would be a good disgrace to him if the princes were murdered in England, and he sent them, after a short time, to the King of Sweden to be put to death there; but although they were allies, that king was by no means disposed to excuse his wishes. So the Aethelings escaped with their lives and their Continental odyssey began.

Geoffrey Gaimar, an early twelfth-century Anglo-Norman chronicler and gossip writer, who collected all the hearsay of his time in *Les Contes des Engleis*, provides a good starting point for any historical sleuth wishing to retrace the Aethelings' steps.

A throwaway line in his chronicle, which gives a somewhat stylized account of the events, indicates that the two princes had first sought refuge in Russia.

The Russians themselves have, in their annals, made repeated references to the stay of the Anglo-Saxon princes in Kiev.

Apart from the frustrations of the long years of Kievan exile, the Aethelings' decision to move to Hungary might have been motivated by the near Hungarian monarch's promised backing for his claim to the throne of England. Furthermore, it was closer to home.

Although he did not know the preceding Kievan exile, William of Malmsbury recorded in his annals that the Aethelings "went to the king of Hungary, where, after being kindly received for a time, the elder died, and the younger married Agatha, the sister of the queen (sic)."

Other medieval chroniclers had one or the other of the Anglo-Saxon princes married to

various royal offsprings in Hungary, but it was Florence of Worcester who got his rights: "... Edmund & there (Hungary); but Edward married Agatha, a daughter of the brother of the Emperor Henry of Germany, by whom he had Margaret, Christina, & Edward the Aetheling."

Edward the Exile's children were born in Hungary, and the chances are that excavations at Meskenád may provide material evidence of the English prince's stay there. Tradition has it that the bridge in the vicinity referred to in 13th century Hungarian documents as *Tet Britanorum de Nodatus* named after Edward's child, "the bridge of the two princes".

Meanwhile, back to England events were inexorably leading to tragedy. Edward the Confessor, who ascended the throne after the end of the Danes' rule, promised his crown to William of Normandy as himself had no heirs.

Having learnt, however, of one of his exiled nephews alive in Hungary, he called for him in 1064 and set according to the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, Bishop Aethelred, his brother back.

Florence of Worcester, clearly states the purpose of the bishop's embassy: "the king had determined appoint him/Edward his successor and heir to the crown but he died at London soon after his arrival."

Thus Edward Aetheling's triumphant return from years of Continental exile in short by his perfunctory accidental death. But for the tragic stroke of fate, the Norman conquest might not have taken place, leaving speculation about one of the most crucial might-have-beens of British history.

In fact, Edward the Exile's son, Edgar, was declared the desperate English King in England in 1065 after the death of Harold, but he was a match for William the Conqueror.

Edward's marriage and sojourn in Hungary is of paramount importance for the royal roots story because through a offspring of his daughter, Margaret—who is better known today as St Margaret of Scotland—the Stuart became kings of England, including the present royal family, the ancient House of Wessex. That offspring was Robert the Bruce.

Gabriel Ronay



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ON THE SIDE OF FREE TRADE

The rest of the industrial world should welcome the fact that the trade talks between the United States and Japan have ended in agreement. It is at various stages seemed quite possible, they had broken down, there would have been an immediate marked increase in protectionist sentiment in the United States and elsewhere. In a way, therefore, the agreement is more important for itself than for its content.

The problem is both general and specific. The general aspect is that the whole world is still in the grip of the long recession that dates from the oil price rises of 1973. In these circumstances, with huge over-capacity in industry after industry throughout the world, the forces of protectionism grow daily stronger. The specific aspect is that the huge Japanese economy is now in chronic balance of payments surplus, placing the most severe pressures on those countries that are in deficit, notably the United States.

This has strained Japanese-American relations. When Mr. Ushiba visited the United States at the end of last year he was, according to most reports, shocked to discover the extent of hostility towards Japan's trading posture. The Carter Ad-

ministration has been relatively restrained in its public utterances, but in private and through diplomatic channels has clearly been exerting almost brutal pressure on the Japanese to liberalize their trade. Some observers consider that this pressure, culminating in Mr. Strauss's visit to Tokyo, had pushed the Fukuda government to its sticking point. The realization of this fact explains why the eventual agreement between Mr. Strauss and Mr. Ushiba goes very little further in the way of Japanese concessions than was announced at the end of last year. They were then described by the Americans as inadequate.

This week's events in Tokyo should, therefore, be seen as a bolding operation. A rapid deterioration of international trading relations has been avoided. Whether it is the turning point in Japan's trading relations with the rest of the world, as is being officially claimed, will depend wholly on how Japanese policy develops during the next two years or so. Much of the Japanese case is based on the commitment to expand the economy at 7 per cent next year, thus creating a demand for imports from the rest of the world. Sentiment about whether this ambitious forecast will be met is well founded. If the

Japanese growth rate is significantly lower than 7 per cent, however, there is every likelihood that the balance of trade surplus will persist at a high level. In that case further direct action by the Japanese Government would be required.

In a more general sense, however, the Tokyo agreement may mark a turning point in the development of world trade. The various domestic pressures for protection have substantially increased the areas of world trade now covered by quotas, restrictive "gentlemen's agreements" and the like. Such moves are designed to help domestic producers and to preserve jobs. The fault with protectionism is that, in helping the producer, it works against the interests of the consumer by reducing choice and raising price. It is important, therefore, that the spread of protection should be contained in each country as much as possible. Further, the system of managed free trade through quotas and other arrangements should be used to work towards a balanced expansion, rather than a contraction, of international commerce. As a small beginning, these Tokyo talks with the Japanese may have shown a constructive way to advance.

NOT BRITAIN'S TO BARTER

An early opportunity will doubtless be given to Mr. Rowlands in all Parliament how much weight is to be attached to reports that he is contemplating the cession of a part of the territory of Belize (the former British Honduras) to Guatemala in return for the renunciation of Guatemala's long-standing claim over the entire territory, a claim entrenched in the Guatemalan constitution since 1945. In December Mr. Henry Forde, the Barbados foreign minister, who had been discussing the problem with officials from other Caribbean and Latin American countries, advised publicly against any such cession of land to appease Guatemala.

The Foreign Office naturally denies that any deals are in the making; all that has happened is that Mr. Rowlands has continued the discussions which he agreed to continue during his visit to Guatemala in July, following earlier talks in Washington that had failed. It must be assumed that he discussed the Guatemala-Belize problem, in which the Americans have tried to mediate, with Mr. Vance, but only Mr. Rowlands can say if a change in the frontiers of Belize was one of the possibilities examined.

If a very minor amputation of territory would secure Belize once and for all the removal of Guatemala's persistent threats of military conquest, repeatedly backed by mobilizations which have compelled Britain to rush in troops, it would be worth consideration. For then Belize could proceed to the indepen-

dence it desires, and which Britain desires it to have, along with virtually every other nation in the world except Guatemala.

It is obviously difficult for a new nation to begin its career by giving up land which it has been assured is its true patrimony for 300 years—and very difficult for an elected government to recommend such a sacrifice. But though Belize is small, its population of only 130,000 could probably make a modest frontier change without effect on its living standards in return for a secure independence that would incidentally help to attract international capital for development.

But everything depends on the view to be taken of Guatemala's trustworthiness. Why should that country in return for a minor concession give up a cause and a claim that has stood it in good stead for 150 years? Its right to Belize is embodied in its thinking and education. Its army, which has been so strengthened by Israeli equipment that it now needs a squadron of Harriers to deter it, largely exists for the day when it can triumphantly march into Belize. Whenever its government becomes unpopular—which is frequently—it can heat the patriotic drum over Belize and the British.

Guatemala is not a democracy, and its constitution, as promulgated in 1965, though noble in phraseology like so many, is hardly the hindering legal document of the Constitution of the United States. What Guatemala's military dictatorship can rewrite, another can rewrite yet

again. There is a leftwing feeling which favours leaving Belize to Guatemala, its institutions which protect human rights, but it could not resist.

It seems to be a permanent temptation to the statesmen of large countries to find solutions for wearisome problems by bartering bits of other people's property for bits of paper, but in large or small cases such barter is repeatedly come to grief.

The real safeguard for Belize is that the British Government could not, and would not, be allowed to act in such a matter without the agreement of both Government and opposition in Belize. They have been kept informed of the talks, and Mr. Rowlands is pledged to be careful of local views as he is in the case of the Falkland Islands, claimed in the same way, if less brutally, by Argentina.

It may be assumed that the leaders of Belize know how to barter for their neighbor. So far Mr. Price has taken no chances. He has successfully mobilized worldwide support—the United Nations and the Commonwealth countries—for the right of Belize to exist and the total inadmissibility of the Guatemalan claim. But beyond securing world backing, he has also indicated that before he accedes to independence from Britain, he would like, if not a British military presence, an international one in some form. This is not a very trusting attitude, but whatever assurances Mr. Rowlands may have received in Guatemala.

Spina bifida children

From Miss Moyna Gilbertson

Sir, I refer to recent correspondence on the current controversy over whether or not to treat babies with spina bifida and whether to act on diagnosis before birth. This Association has received some criticism for taking no public part in the discussion, but to date I have constantly been told by representatives of the press and media that this is a purely medical problem. Some of your correspondents do not agree with this view and perhaps the time has now come to widen the discussion.

The question is one of personal ethics and parents and families have the right to expect useful and patient counselling to help them make the decision appropriate for them. This Association exists to support such families, to provide a forum for discussion and a source of accurate information, as well as actively sponsoring research to try to discover the underlying causes of spina bifida.

I would also like to comment on your report of the proceedings in Parliament, January 11, when the Secretary of State for Social Services is quoted as saying that handicapped children are being admitted for long periods to hospital because there are no adequate facilities in the community. This is only part of the story. There are, in fact, some underused facilities in the community and this Association owns one such: a house registered to take children for short or long term stay. If children are in hospital it is no strain on the local authority purse; and the house is often considerably underused partly because local authorities will not pay the bills. Some children may, therefore, remain in hospital for unnecessarily long periods.

There are many people with spina bifida or hydrocephalus who are living, leading happy and useful lives and their needs should be emphasized along with the efforts of the agencies which seek to support them. Yours faithfully, MOYNA G. GILBERTSON, Chief Executive Officer, Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, Tavistock Square North, Tavistock Square, WC1.

From Professor M. J. S. Loefer
Sir, Your headline about "let children die" with spina bifida (December 29) was an unfortunate

emotional way to introduce a discussion of the management of this difficult problem. Surgical treatment of severely affected babies involves many operations, often two dozen or more without any prospect of alleviating the paralysis of the infant's legs. There will be no prospect of giving the child any bowel or bladder control, and there will be the likelihood of mental defect due to the raised intracranial pressure associated with the defect.

The problem is whether the suffering inflicted in the surgical treatment is justified by the results. No sensible and compassionate doctor would fail to advise parents of the virtues of such treatment if it is not. Yours faithfully, M. J. S. LOEFER, Department of Therapeutics, Nottingham, January 6.

Human rights in Kenya

From Professor David Daiches and others

Sir, We have heard with great concern of the unexplained detention of Ngugi wa Thiong'o by the Kenyan authorities. He is one of the finest writers in Africa, a novelist whose skill, sincerity and integrity have been an important example to others. It alarms us deeply that, soon after the appearance of his latest controversial book, he should be held, whereabouts unknown, for 10 days in a nation which has sought to distinguish itself by its generous attitudes towards literature and the press. Together with his uncountable readers and admirers all over the world, we are now asking: "Where is Ngugi, and what offences are alleged against him?" Yours faithfully, DAVID DAICHES, A. N. JEFFARES, CHRISTOPHER FYFE, ANGUS CALDER, ALASTAIR NIVEN, JOHN MCCracken, University of Stirling, Stirling, January 11.

A MacDonald statue

From Mr. Sidney R. Campion

Sir, Exactly a year ago you published my letter pleading for the children of a MacDonald who died in 1937, having served as Prime Minister of the minority Labour Government of 1924 and 1929-31, and also as Prime Minister of the National Government, 1931-35. I called attention to the regrettable fact that nowhere in the United Kingdom was there a bust or statue to this brave leader who, from a poor lad at Lossiemouth, became largely by his own efforts a towering national and international statesman.

The letter aroused interest in many quarters. I was interviewed by the press and radio; members of the general public wrote and telephoned me. I recall one letter from a gentleman who, having read in the *Sunday Times* that when his father, a tin worker, heard of Mr. MacDonald's death, broke into tears. That was a common experience, and I can be numbered among the many who were similarly affected.

Then a month later came David Marquand's scholarly and massive historical study of Ramsay MacDonald, from which there clearly emerged one of the outstanding statesmen in the political history of this nation. His decision to put Britain first instead of the Labour Party, thus serving the ties of millions of admirers, called for great moral courage, so often lacking in parliamentary circles. Yet never once during the remainder of his years outside the Labour Party did he give his Socialist principles, indeed, his remembrance of them lessened the severity of the hardships imposed at the time to withstand the effect of the "economic billiard".

In one way or another I assumed that someone in authority somewhere was taking the life and work of Mr. MacDonald into account. In this instance, about "Portrait Sculpture in Stone", Charlie Chaplin was certainly a Londoner, was not he? a cockney. Yours faithfully, LES ALLEN, Middlesex, January 11.

The balance of society

From Mr. A. V. Spain

Sir, I congratulate you on your first leader of January 10. The tide indeed needs to turn. However, what is at present so worrying is the evidence that many who could be expected to join in helping turn it are now tending to accept the present political situation as a tolerable enough regime. In so far as there is a general yearning for a quiet life, many are feeling that in recent years they've never had it so quiet. These people are apparently persuading themselves that under the Lib-Lab the country is now jogging along in a comfortable and politically neutral way; that Jim'll continue fixing it whereas Maggie'll most likely bust it.

What seems to be overlooked is that one particular facet of Socialism is steadily, not to say stealthily, being achieved, this being the levelling of incomes—down of course—or put another way, the blunting of differentials. This process will continue so long as we have the combination of inflation with steep progressive taxation, and its effects are felt on the shop floor—hence a lot of the current industrial unrest—and increasingly severely up the executive or professional scale.

Was not Mr. Healey once heard to express sympathy for middle management? A fat lot he's done or seems ever likely to do for them, let alone for higher management. There just are not the votes there to be wooed. The only hint one hears currently from the government side is of alleviating the tax burden on the lower paid. A fine sounding sentiment, but it is only to be attained by yet further aggravation of the differentials problem.

The present system is of course not only unjust but thoroughly foolish, and people who ought to be found in the anti-Government camp when the election comes should not delude themselves that in the absence of more obviously Socialist legislation, the country is being run on nice Conservative lines.

Yours, etc., A. V. SPAIN, 80 Burnside Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, January 12.

From Mr. W. M. Barritt

Sir, Your interesting leader "The balance of society" (January 10) seems to me to make the mistake that there are only two directions we can travel. I would agree that we have travelled too far on the collectivist road, but the only alternative, a retreat to the absolute freedoms of the market place?

I can understand Mrs. Thatcher's wishful thinking to return to the early 'sixties of this century, if not the 'forties, but I expected better of *The Times*.

At this point in our evolution we know that our resources are finite and that we will have to find means of limiting the ceaseless expansion of man's activities which are threatening to destroy the environment, as well as that of most other living creatures. It follows that we have to seek new values in society which will enable us to share and create a good environment for humanity without destroying individualism. I do not claim to know the answer, but I would suggest that it is more likely to be found in breaking down our complex society into smaller units in which the individual will feel that he can responsibly participate and cooperate. It is the devil takes the hindmost approach of the market place, or the collectivist bureaucratic approach of the socialist.

Yours faithfully, W. M. BARRITT, The Great House, Welby Road, Duns, Dumfriesshire, Galloway, January 11.

Selling potatoes by name

From Mr. A. H. T. Robb-Smith

Sir, Dr. McClinch (letter, January 11) is very right that we must know the sort of potato that a particular dish requires, but where is the *thesaurus* to guide us?

A recent article from the National Institute of Agricultural Botany, *The Garden* (1978, 103-10) no "Choice of potato varieties" merely discusses disintegration and discolouration after boiling, and the stringent specifications required by the Food and Food Society (1943). Persons are left to the varieties most suitable for eating daubed or pommes soufflées. Captain Donald Maclean of Crief is doing notable work in preserving and propagating over 200 of the older and newer varieties, but his list gives no indication of their culinary qualities. Indeed I know of only one book on conkers or gastronomy, old or new, that has dealt with this subject in any detail and that was Ernest Olden's little pamphlet, *Potatoes to Know and to Serve* (Wine and Food Society, 1943). Persons like Elizabeth David, having written so many culinary masterpieces, will assume the mantle of Permaculture, whom Grimaud de la Rivière called "L'Économie de la Vieillesse et de la Cécité des Pommes de Terre". I remain, Dear Sir, Your obedient servant, A. H. T. ROBB-SMITH, Chaucer's House, Winchester, Hampshire, Oxfordshire, January 11.

A Chaplin memorial

From Mr. Les Allen

Sir, Mr. Williams (January 9) is quite right in assuming that someone will correct him. Not, however, in this instance, about "Portrait Sculpture in Stone". Charlie Chaplin was certainly a Londoner, was not he? a cockney. Yours faithfully, LES ALLEN, Middlesex, January 11.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The judge and the immigrants

From Mr. Obajimi Adefranje

Sir, As a member of a minority group on whom the comments of H. H. Judge McKinnon and the acquittal of Kingsley Read have a direct effect, please permit me to express my views.

Ethnic minorities have always been made a scapegoat for disasters—unemployment, housing shortage, crowded schools and hospitals, etc.

I have hitherto taken consolation in the belief that right thinking British people have not underestimated the contribution which the minority groups from the empire and now the expanded Commonwealth have made to the culture and the advancement of this country.

There is no comparison between a white Australian school boy being called a nigger in the 1920s by his friends, and black people going about their daily work in the 70s, being called wog, con or black bastard with impunity by complete strangers.

We in the non-white community are expected to accept these stereotyped racial abuse, now codified and made respectable by the courts, as if we are pieces of stone without feelings.

Unfortunately Mr. Read's acquittal and H. H. Judge McKinnon's remarks can only serve to reverse this trend and encourage those who are guided by them to put race relations back a decade.

Yours faithfully, OBAJIMI ADEFRANJE, 34 Rokeby Road, SE4, January 12.

From Mr. J. L. Oxlade
Sir, For those who seek to maintain a moderate degree of informed interest in the subject of race relations, it could hardly be a matter more deserving of accurate reporting by the news media than the remarks of Judge McKinnon last week. In your issue of January 7 you reported the judge, in indirect speech, as saying that there were people in Britain opposed to the

influx of immigrants. Immediately following that you placed in quotation marks, as indicating a literal presentation of what he had said, the words "Goodness knows, we have one and a half million unemployed already and all immigrants are going to do is to occupy jobs that are needed by the local population."

The *Daily Mail*, not, alas, *The Times*—has today published what it presents as the full official transcript of the judge's summing up. In that the passages quoted above appear as "it is claimed that jobs will be lost, that goodness knows, we have a million and a half unemployed already and that all the immigrants are going to do is to occupy jobs that are needed by our local population."

There is, obviously, a world of difference between the one hand, saying that all immigrants are going to do is to take jobs from the local population and, on the other, observing that that is what is said by opponents of further immigration. You must be fair, *The Times*.

We in the non-white community are expected to accept these stereotyped racial abuse, now codified and made respectable by the courts, as if we are pieces of stone without feelings. Unfortunately Mr. Read's acquittal and H. H. Judge McKinnon's remarks can only serve to reverse this trend and encourage those who are guided by them to put race relations back a decade.

Yours faithfully, J. L. OXLADE, 2 Ridge Park, Purley, Surrey, January 11.

From Mr. T. J. Ferguson
Sir, Surely Lord Hailsham's phrase "the hysteria of the race relations industry" is easily illustrated by the last paragraph of the letter from Professor and Mrs. Brent (January 10) in which they hope that the Attorney General will make every attempt to have a man who has been acquitted by a jury tried again and convicted of the same offence by a higher court.

I do not necessarily agree with all the remarks of the judge as reported. Yours faithfully, T. J. FERGUSON, Briarwood, Mayfield, East Sussex, January 11.

From Mr. Melville Ipe
Sir, If you, Sir, called me a "Nigger, Wog or Con" and I mugged you, we should both get away with it. Yours faithfully, MELVILLE IPE, Goldsworth Park, St Johns, Woking, Surrey, January 11.

The 'Cambrian Way'

From Mr. Arthur Roberts

Sir, It is not perhaps surprising that the "Cambrian Way" of Wales is opposed to the creation of a long distance route from Cardiff to Conwy (see the article in *The Times* of December 31). What is surprising is that their published reasons are so poor: they fear that the creation of the route might actually create the number of jobs being very difficult to follow outside the main tourist areas; there are also far too many Welsh hills on which the public still has no legal right to be, despite the provisions of the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act. A comparison with the 1:50,000 map of the Eng-

ish Lake District shows a startling difference, for in that area almost every hill has two or three legal paths to the summit, whereas in Wales, apart from the major summits, such rights of way are very rare. It is simply not true that there are adequate paths already in Wales; there is no single summit in Fforest Fawr or the Black Mountain approached by a public path.

We consider it ridiculous, too, to suggest that taking the Cambrian Way over Snowdon or Cadair Idris would cause a significant increase in usage. These hills are climbed by many thousands of ramblers every year, "because" they are there. What the long distance route would do is to introduce the walker to the much less well known and less well trodden areas of Central Wales, Powys and Dyfed; and to those areas, the proposed route in Snowdonia. More power to the arm of the Countryside Commission! Yours faithfully, ARTHUR ROBERTS, Chairman, The Ramblers' Association, Welsh Council, Tenby-Fuch, Llandnog, Denbigh, Cwyd.

It was not the Judge, therefore, as Dame Helen suggested, who "called a halt to the procession of witnesses." That world of course have been improper and unthinkable unless he had ruled, after the first 36 defence witnesses had given evidence, that the prosecution had completely failed to make out a case. In 1960 I was charged with the task of seeking statements from Dr. Leavis and Mr. Eliot, as well as E. M. Forster, Dame Helen and many other possible witnesses for Penguin Books at the forthcoming *Lady Chatterley's Lover* trial. In the event 36 were called to give evidence out of some 72 whose proofs of evidence were in counsel's briefs.

During the trial Mr. Eliot sat stoically, with Mrs. Eliot, for hours on end in the chilly corridors outside the Old Bailey Court, waiting. It had been decided to call him if, but only if, the prosecution had chosen to refer to his 1933 *Piece Baroque* lectures published in 1934 under the title *After Strange Gods: A Primer of Modern Heresy*; he was prepared to say, after 27 years, "I am not necessarily, to be assumed in agreement with all my earlier opinions, some of which I now regard as being immature."

He considered the trial a farce and so on. The defence decided not to expose him unnecessarily to cross-examination on the subject of his change of mind.

Dr Leavis and Mr Eliot

From Mr. Michael Rubinstein

Sir, Dame Helen Gardner has "lightly drawn attention" (January 7) to T. S. Eliot's wish to retract views he had earlier expressed about certain aspects of Lawrence's thinking.

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Farm product prices

From Mr. H. R. Evans

Sir, In Cyril Coffin's absence over seas may I take up some of the points made by Professor Winegrten (letter, December 28). The Food Manufacturers' Federation (FMF) is well aware of the problems which exist in the livestock sector—namely with regard to pig production—and Mr. Coffin referred to this in his statement. The Federation has also argued on a number of occasions for the correction of anomalies in the calculation of monetary compensatory amounts on these items. However, the industry is extremely concerned at the likely results of solving these problems by means of a general devaluation of the green pound. This would increase the cost of a wide range of products, many of which are imported into the United Kingdom in large quantities—for instance, wheat, sugar and tomato paste—in order to compensate for anomalies in domestic production. Last week the EEC Commission's Review plus the EEC Commission's

current "prudent price policy" demonstrate encouraging progress towards fixing agricultural prices at levels which are more realistic, which are more closely related to market requirements, and which will discourage excessive production.

The behaviour of the inflation rate in the United Kingdom over the next twelve months will be critical in terms of acceptance of wage restraint, and the country's ability to compete in export markets, and changes in agricultural prices resulting from either adjustments in the green pound or increases in EEC price levels are important contributory factors in this.

While accepting that there are sectoral anomalies which require correction, any pressure for a general adjustment of the green pound should be judged by the likely effect on inflation. Yours faithfully, H. R. EVANS, Food Manufacturers' Federation, 12, 2 Castle Lane, Buckingham Gate, SW1.

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Paris ideas for the Underground

From Mr. Simon P. N. Rainey

Sir, The opening of the impressive final stage of the Réseau Express Régional (RER) in Paris (for which they had two free days of travel on it to celebrate) and a recent visit to that city prompts me to compare the Métro and the London Underground.

It is easy to list many faults on our side and to heap much praise on theirs but perhaps in a time of public expenditure cuts it is unreasonable to expect the LPTB to spend a vast amount on renovation. Yet in Paris, the RATP spends its money very sensibly. Instead of the all-out policy of "total modernization" (with all its attendant horrors), the station is kept as it is, but is redecorated, new seats and the sometimes drab white tiles (correlages) are washed down. This is happening slowly but surely everywhere, in the RATP's proudly proclaimed programme "Renovation de station" with such naïvely enthusiastic posters (at least to Londoners' eyes) when the work is done as "votre station se fait belle. Maintenez, c'est à vous!"

Admittedly we have escalators (which the Métro seriously lacks) but work on which is naturally in hand) but they are scruffy and out of order, though much less frequent than the better adopted for rush-hour travel than Paris's "rampe" (folded stairs), but how much more desirable our grimly lovable Underground could become with a similar policy. Instead of spurious streamlining and demolition, careful, sympathetic (cheaper!) repair, painting and washing—it can be done, a half-hearted attempt was started at Mansion House. Then we, too, can be regarded with respect by happy travellers. Yours faithfully, SIMON P. N. RAINEY, Cornhill, Cambridge, January 11.

From Mr. Michael Barsley
Sir, So the Churchill portrait was not confined to the dungeons of Dover Castle, as some of us thought I could never understand why, when I produced the special "Panorama" programme on BBC Television, on the night of his retirement to 1953 (a broadcast of some interest since there were, I'm afraid, Sir, no news at the time), it was not allowed to present the Sutherland picture, though the programme was able to carry the otherwise "lost" cartoons of Vicky, Illingworth, and Cummings.

However, one of the great speakers with Malcolm Muggeridge, after all, was the late Randolph Churchill, discussing his father (and being rung up by him afterwards). I believe it was from Randolph Churchill, or from one of the private secretaries, that I first heard mention of Dover Castle as the painting's final resting place. May that was just a joke to put us of the scent. Maybe, I now reflect, the "deed of dreadful note" has already been done. I am, Sir, Yours, etc. MICHAEL BARSLEY, 10, St. John's Road, Oxford, January 12.

The Churchill portrait

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Hardy's birthplace

From Mr. Hain Offit

Sir, I have appreciated very much the article by T. E. Lawrence and Thomas Hardy by H. Mountgomerie Hyde, Hardy, however, was born in Higher Bockhampton, Dorset, not in Stinsford where his heart was buried. My wife and I have toured the footprints of the great English novelist and poet (there is no comparison in German literature to man like Thomas Hardy, who was a Heilmathschristian, but by a seeking historicist). From Higher Bockhampton to Stinsford it was an unforgettable walk of three quarters of an hour through Thomas Hardy country. I am, yours, HAIN OFFIT, Jenner Street 17, D1000 000 31, January 3.

Sir Oswald Mosley

From Sir Oswald Mosley

Sir, Some recent statements in your columns concerning me and my friend are at variance with fact on public record. We were detained without charge or trial for five years to prevent us persuading the British people to make peace with the Nazis and most enthusiastic meetings ever held in our country (Harvard 10.12.1940). These meetings were after the war began, like Lloyd George's meetings in the Bow War, but the record assembly at Earl's Court occurred in July 1935 during the period when we were again enthusiastically met to be a householders' vote in East London. There was no popular uprising on our release from prison. The Communist Party canvassed all our neighbours in an Oxfordshire village without getting a single signature to put us back. Yours truly, OSWALD MOSLEY, 1 Rue Des Lacs, Orsay, France, January 11.

Apron or bib?

From Lady Artemus-Jones

Sir, I have in my possession a small silver gadget, inherited from an elderly man of fastidious habits, which by a simple sliding technique clips a corner of the table napkin to the collar, thus such an object be found today? Yours faithfully, MILDRED ARTEMUS-JONES, Bryn Gwyn, Bangor, Gwynedd, January 10.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Personal
investment and
finance,
pages 18 and 19

Mortgage rate is cut to 8½%—its lowest level since April, 1973

By Margaret Stone

The Building Societies Association decision yesterday to recommend a full one point drop in the mortgage interest rate to 8½ per cent. It is the lowest level since April, 1973, and will knock £5.78 a month off the cost of an average £2,500 mortgage.

It was a foregone conclusion that the council of the BSA would recommend an interest rate cut when they met yesterday, but there was uncertainty about the size of it.

In the event Mr Ralph Stow, BSA chairman, said the decision to take a point rather than ¾ of a point off the rate was virtually unanimous.

The decision to cut the rate by a full point reflects the Treasury's decision to move the rate of the Treasury bill down to 8½ per cent, and the level of rates ultimately depends.

After a slow start to the year—it is hard to remember that net receipts were only £89m last January—net receipts rose to a record level of £300m in October, and even December, traditionally a poor month for net receipts, showed an inflow of £421m.

By reducing the rate to 8½ per cent, a net effective rate of interest of 8.61 per cent for the basic rate taxpayer—the society hope to avoid any further cuts for some time. Last year they changed their rates three times.

Mr Stow said that he looked forward to a "steadier period of interest rates" and hoped that the 8½ per cent figure would "prove to be right for some time ahead". The 8½ per cent is effective immediately for new mortgages and from

FNFC's deficiency has risen to £76.2m

By Our Financial Staff

First National Finance Corporation, the secondary bank which is still being kept afloat by the Bank of England's lifeboat, has a long term future on the basis of a firm property market and continuing success on the consumer credit side.

That is the belief of Mr Stuart Dyer, FNFC's managing director, who yesterday announced a loss of £4.8m for the year to October 31 against a loss of £32.1m in the previous year.

The loss increases the net equity deficiency to £76.2m. Deferred and unsecured loans of £93.2m leave a residue of £17m. But the loss is reduced to £3.9m by tax recoverable of £89,000, and the company did trade at a profit in the second half. The first-half loss of £7.5m was turned round to a £2.6m profit in the second half.

The consumer credit division contributed just over £8m profit and the improvement in the property market helped disposals. Overheads have been cut, with staff reduced to 89 from 130, and a move to new headquarters.

Present indications are that the second-half trend should continue. Mr Dyer said this progress did suggest that there was a long term future for the group.

The balance sheet shows income loans and direct loans from the support group—the "Lifeboat"—totaling £212m.

Interest is not currently payable to the support group on deferred loans or loan stock. Holders for this period but remittances made to the group cover interest of £12.6m on the income loans. Unpaid interest now amounts to £34.5m.

Thorn doubts on consumer upturn

By Our Financial Staff

Thorn Electrical, one of Britain's biggest consumer durables groups, warned shareholders yesterday that it has so far seen no real signs of the long-expected upturn in consumer spending. Thorn's shares fell 1½p before recovering slightly to close 10p down at 40p after the group announced pre-tax profits less than 9 per cent ahead at £46.1m in the six months to September 30.

This figure was at the lower end of market expectations. But the main disappointment stemmed from bearish comments about current trading. Sir Richard Cave, the chairman, said that in the year to date the lower level of expenditure by the public on consumer electronics and household appliances has persisted throughout the normal peak season.

He added that although there was still

time for a recovery in trading conditions before the March year-end, "it would be prudent" to expect full year profits similar to last year's £103.7m.

British sales in fact increased 13 per cent during the interim period to £144m, partly reflecting continued growth in television rental business. Thorn's biggest problems were overseas where sales dropped by more than 3 per cent to £170m, despite increased exports.

Excess production capacity in consumer durables throughout Europe has depressed figures but the group has suffered its biggest reversal in the Australian TV market. A spokesman for the group said last night that its half-owned Australian television subsidiary was suffering heavy losses as a result of a "drastic" downturn in colour television demand.

Unlike EMI, which recently announced it was withdrawing from the Australian

CEGB calls again for dual strategy on reactors

By Kenneth Owen
Technology Correspondent

The Central Electricity Generating Board repeated yesterday that it was seeking a "commitment to construct" nuclear power stations based on the American-developed pressurized water reactor (PWR), as well as one using a revised version of the British advanced gas-cooled reactor (AGR).

This followed reports that Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, is likely to recommend the construction of two AGR stations (one for the South of Scotland Electricity Board) but only a limited commitment to development and safety studies on the PWR.

A dual strategy, leading to on-site work on an AGR station beginning in January 1980, and on-site work on a PWR station, starting perhaps two years later is favoured by the CEGB.

Because there is much preliminary work to be done before work on a PWR station could begin—including producing a United Kingdom station design, cost and safety assessments, obtaining planning permission (allowing time for a possible public inquiry) and obtaining licences to build the station—CEGB believes that a firm commitment to construct should be made as soon as possible.

Unless there is a commitment to construct, a CEGB spokesman said yesterday, the PWR development effort would lack urgency.

In the first year of operation of the Hinkley Point AGR station in Somerset, Mr Glyn Enland, CEGB chairman, has pointed out, the output was only one-third of that expected. The AGR stations (three different designs are now in operation or under construction) are notoriously fickle, liable for maintenance and repair.

Those still under construction are all extremely late and their costs have soared beyond estimates.

Thus, operating experience with the AGR is limited. In addition there are basic design limitations. The operational experience to date is insufficient to justify a major investment decision, in the Board's view.

For these reasons, the CEGB remains adamant that its dual approach is essential; the risk in depending solely on the AGR is too great.

The much-postponed government decision on the nuclear reactor choice is expected soon. Last Monday Mr Benn told the Commons: "At the next meeting of the Energy Commission on February 13 I would hope the Government's decision on this would be a great deal closer, if not already made."

Trafalgar offshoot pays £1.25m for publisher of 'Investors Chronicle'

By Desmond Quiley

Trafalgar House, which has been rapidly building up a publishing division, is to buy Throgmorton Publications, which publishes the *Investors Chronicle*, for £1.25m.

The purchase is being made by Trafalgar's subsidiary, Morgan-Grampian, which was acquired last year at a cost of £20.5m, from the joint owners, Financial Times and IPC Business Press, part of Reed International.

A statement last night said that the FT and IPC are prepared to accept this offer subject to agreement on a number of points at present under discussion. It is hoped to conclude the agreement within the next week. The parties have agreed to make no further statement for the time being.

Mr Graham Sherran, chief executive of Morgan-Grampian, is understood to have given a verbal, though not written

assurance, that there will be no redundancies.

Mr Sherran is understood to have said that Throgmorton should make a profit of about £150,000 in the financial year to March. This is double what the 1976 profits are believed to have been.

The takeover is part of the declared aim of Mr Victor Matthews, chairman of Beaverbrook Newspapers and chief executive of Trafalgar, to build up the business publications side of Morgan-Grampian, now firmly established in the field with such magazines as *The Engineer* and *Accountants Weekly*.

The *Investors Chronicle's* circulation has recovered well since the magazine was revamped last August and is now believed to be around 29,000 a week. However, this is still well below the 45,000-50,000 mark seen during the last bull market.

In addition to the *Investors Chronicle*, Throgmorton pub-

Citibank holds prime rate at 8 pc

From Frank Vogel
Washington, Jan 13

Citibank announced today in New York that it was holding its prime lending rate at 8 per cent, but new money supply figures, showing sharp increases in the money stock, are fueling speculation in the money markets that short-term interest rates will soon rise further.

This speculation, combined with expectations of some major economic statements by President Carter in the next few days, may upset financial markets next week.

In New York today, however, markets were unusually quiet, with businessmen blaming a snow storm, rather than economic factors.

President Carter is scheduled to deliver his State of the Union address next Thursday evening and informed sources said it will be devoted mainly to the economy and energy with the emphasis on the administration's determination to take measures that will strengthen private sector investment.

Administration sources said that by next Friday the President will have released the details of a new programme of fiscal measures to stimulate the economy, the details of which will also have been announced as part of a new anti-inflation programme.

The White House is now concluding work on legislative proposals involving tax cuts of \$25,000 and possibly new public employment projects.

On the anti-inflation front, the administration hopes to announce an agreement with business and union leaders aimed at ensuring "wage and price" increase moderation in the year ahead. These will be accompanied by details of the sort of wage and price increases the administration considers acceptable.

Whisky brands were withdrawn to protect exports, Distillers argue

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Jan 13

Distillers Company today defended the withdrawal of Johnnie Walker Red Label and Dimple Haig whisky from the British market, despite warnings from the European Commission that this action was being examined for further breach of the EEC's Free Trade rules. The Commission promised a ruling "as soon as possible".

Last month's decision by Distillers to withdraw the two brands, as well as the application to the Price Commission to be allowed to raise the price of four others by up to 50p a bottle, was itself a response to an earlier ruling by the Commission condemning the company's dual pricing policy for export and domestic sales.

Under EEC competition rules, refusal to sell certain brands in Britain could be considered an abuse of a dominant position, having the effect of "limiting access to the market of consumers". Distillers contends that this is hardly justified since the company still has 57 different brands on sale in Britain.

In talks here today with the Commission, senior Distillers executives insisted that the action decided upon to comply

with the ban on dual pricing "was taken not to dramatize the situation, but solely for the purpose of protecting export sales throughout the world".

The Distillers team pointed out that export sales accounted for 85 per cent of the company's Scotch whisky business and last year contributed £220m to the British balance of payments. Johnnie Walker Red Label is the world's largest selling brand.

Distillers claimed that the dual pricing system had been necessary to cover the promotional costs incurred by its distributors abroad in competing against well entrenched continental spirits protected by discriminatory legislation and taxation. These costs had to be added to the price charged to British dealers intending to export to the rest of the EEC.

With the dual pricing system declared illegal, Distillers mild the Commission, British dealers could no longer be charged the higher price for export sales. Accordingly the only way to protect the company's export market was to remove certain brands from sale in Britain or to raise their domestic prices.

At a press conference, Mr David Kerr, Distillers director responsible for EEC sales, said

Italian surplus masks stagnation in output

From John Earle
Rome, Jan 13

Italy's balance of payments swung from a 1,027,700m lire (£68.5m) deficit in 1976 to a 2,044,000m lire (£121.6m) surplus in 1977, according to provisional figures issued here today. December registered a surplus of 322,000m lire (£19.1m).

These apparently encouraging figures, however, mask a stagnation in domestic demand and a fall in industrial activity.

For the fifth successive month, industrial production decreased in November, by 8 per cent over November 1976 or, on a daily adjusted basis, by 7.9 per cent (November 1977 had one more working day).

The depressing outlook has prompted "Confindustria", the confederation of private industry, to launch a recovery plan for increased capital investment to achieve a 4.5 per cent annual growth rate in production midway through the year, against the government's more modest target of 3 per cent.

To achieve this, Confindustria maintains that a 1,000,000 lire (£59.5m) deficit in the 1978 balance of payments would be acceptable instead of the government's projected

Importers in Japan car sales row

By Edward Townsend

Datsun UK last night launched a bitter attack on its rival in the British car market, Toyota GB, for issuing what it described as "inflammatory" and "irresponsible" statements on the issue of Japanese car sales in the United Kingdom.

At the same time Datsun said it considered the agreement between the motor industry associations of Japan and the United Kingdom under which the Japanese undertook not to increase significantly their share in the British market share, would remain in force in 1978.

In a letter to Toyota, Mr Maxwell Boyd, a Datsun director, said his company was shocked by the reported comments of Mr John Pride, Toyota's managing director, that Japanese car importers were freed this year of the agreement. "We have no wish to be associated in any way with such a statement," Mr Boyd said.

The strength of Datsun's reaction could signal the start of a new sales war between the Japanese importers, has been accused of breaking the agreement, which explains Toyota's more aggressive sales policy for 1978.

Toyota said last night that it had not yet received the letter and did not wish to comment.

Dr Burns also leaving Fed board

Washington, Jan 13

Dr Arthur Burns, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, will also be leaving the board once the United States Senate has confirmed the appointment of Mr William Miller as his successor.

The White House said late today that Dr Burns had written to President Carter noting that he did not intend to remain a

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RELIANCE MUTUAL

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Boilermakers in fresh dispute

Swan Hunter, the Tyneside group which on Thursday salvaged part of the Polish ship order when 1,700 outfitters lifted a five-month overtime ban, is facing more trouble.

Shop stewards representing 3,500 boilermakers have called a mass meeting on Monday to consider the impact on their traditional differentials of the recent £5.40 "fair wages" award to the outfitters.

The boilermakers say the outfitters have been rewarded without sacrificing any of their working practices, or asked to increase flexibility and productivity. They will ask the men to endorse the ending of their own "interchangeability" agreement

Blow to Japan's farmers

Continued from page 1

Mr Takeo Fukuda, the Prime Minister, issued similar assurances to the summit meeting of leaders of industrialised nations in London in May last year, when Japan claimed that it would suffer a current account deficit of \$700m. Instead it is expected to build up an embarrassing \$10,000m surplus on current account.

There can be little doubt, however, that Washington and Japan's other main trading partners will reap benefits from today's bilateral agreement.

In a somewhat symbolic gesture, which has nevertheless antagonized the country's powerful political farm lobby, the Government has also agreed to treble the global quota of beef imports for hotel use to 10,000 tons this year.

Most of the high quality beef is expected to be shipped into Japan from the United States.

Orange imports—another controversial political issue, are to be trebled to 45,000 tons and the volume of citrus fruit will be raised from 1,000 tons to 4,000 tons.

The agreement also contains a number of clauses designed to increase the volume of American imports and trim Washington's trade deficit with Japan, an estimated \$8,000m this year.

Leading article, page 15

How the markets moved

Rises			
ANZ Group	5p to 23½p	Mills & Allen	5p to 11½p
Booker McCann	5p to 23½p	Park Whites	5p to 12½p
Braithwaite	5p to 14½p	Peko Wallend	5p to 23½p
Broken Hill	5p to 40½p	Pride & Clark	15p to 26½p
Drake & Scull	1½p to 26p	Rank Org	5p to 26½p
ICL	6p to 25½p	Renwick Group	3p to 44p
Jarvis J	5p to 19½p	Sunley D	8p to 22½p
Leigh Int	6p to 16½p	Tiger Oats	10p to 48½p
Man Ship Canal	7p to 21½p	Union Discount	10p to 44½p
McCorquodale	8p to 25½p	Wankie Colliery	2p to 40p
Falls			
Assam Frontier	20p to 34½p	Pittington	10p to 45½p
Durban Road	18p to 24½p	Southdown	20p to 46½p
Hickson Welch	20p to 54½p	Thorn Electric	10p to 36½p
Libanon	18p to 45½p	Unilever	6p to 52½p
THE POUND			
Banks		Banks	
Australia	1.75	1.70	
Austria Sch	30.75	28.75	
Belgium	65.50	62.50	
Canada	2.20	2.14	
Denmark Kr	11.42	11.02	
Finland Mk	7.95	7.70	
France Fr	9.32	9.00	
Germany Dm	4.27	4.05	
Greece Dr	79.00	75.50	
Hong Kong \$	9.20	8.75	
Italy Lr	1310.00	1295.00	
Japan Yn	485.00	460.00	
Netherlands Gld	4.56	4.34	
Norway Kr	10.24	9.85	
Portugal Esc	91.00	85.50	
S Africa Rd	2.12	2.00	
Spain Pes	155.00	159.00	
Sweden Kr	9.30	8.95	
Switzerland Fr	3.99	3.77	
US \$	1.98	1.92	
Yugoslavia Dnr	40.00	37.75	

Equities were quiet. Gilt-edged securities were mixed. Dollar premium 67.37 per cent (effective rate 74.34 per cent). Sterling gained one cent to \$1.9325. The effective exchange rate index was at 65.8.

Gold lost \$0.50 an ounce to \$172.625. SDR-5 was 1.21068 on Friday, while SDR-5 was 0.65023. Commodities: Reuters' index was at 1424.7 (previous 1421.3). Reports pages 20 and 21

On other pages		Unit Trusts:		Reliance Mutual Insurance 17	
Chieftrain Trust	18	Interim Statement:			
M. & C.	-20	Wearwell	20		

Bank Base Rate Table	21				
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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Thorn takes spark out of early rally

No news was good news for the stock markets yesterday. As the day passed without the announcement of a new short "tap" and with little happening on the industrial front to upset sentiment, the FT index drifted up to close 1.5 better at 480.9. For the week the fall was 16.4 and for the month, 4.5.

Many of the leaders ended quietly easier with much of the day's interest centring on second line stocks. Even the well-forecast cut in the mortgage rate could do little to stimulate any action on one of the quietest days of trading this year.

To gilts there was little demand for the new long "tap" which made its debut at a discount on the £30 partly paid price but closed in a flat trading, in par. Elsewhere among the longer dated securities there was some buying on yield considerations and many closed at their best levels of the day with gains of 1 to 2, there was little interest in "shorts" which ended unchanged to 1 better.

John Brown, at 233p, have been attracting interest ahead of figures due at the end of this month. Dealers are looking for around 17.5m against a previous £10.5m and there are hopes that the dividend may be doubled through a rights issue.

Thorn Electrical took the spark out of an early rally with disappointing half-timers and a chairman's warning that trading in the second six months may be little improved. After climbing a penny or two in anticipation of the figures, the shares slumped 16p at one point but some buying on weakness and bear closing took them back up to finish 10p off at 362p.

The dampening effect on industrials knocked 2p to 6p off GEC at 267p, ICI at 340p,

Beecham at 653p, Glaxo at 593p, Dunlop at 85p and Unilever at 526p. GKN closed unchanged at 268p.

But with many investors still mulling over the effect of the Government's White Paper on public spending, announced earlier this week, there were few bargains marked among the "blue chip" stocks.

Bear shares were pumped up following further reflection on the Allied referral to the prices commission. Thoughts that Thursday's cuts had been overdone brought the buyers back into the sector. Guinness led the way with a gain of 2p to 186p while Allied at 87p, Bass Charrington at 152p and Whitebread 'A' at 91p all showed rises of a penny. Scottish & Newcastle, which revealed disappointing figures a couple of days ago, firmed 1p to 651p.

The Price Commission's probe into beer prices should do little more than delay the increases by about three months according to brokers W. Greenwell and if an interim rise is granted over the next week or so, year-end figures will be little affected.

In whiskies, Distillers added a penny to 169p after clarifying its position to the EEC.

On the takeover front, Harrow Investment added 1p to 83p while Leisure and General

at 681p also gained a point after accepting higher offer terms from Ladbroke down 2p at 199p. Elakay's Castings returned from suspension at 42p, a penny above Centreway's offer price.

Profit-taking clipped 20p off Hickson & Welch, more than offsetting the 10p rise which stemmed from Thursday's good results.

Speculative interest for the next account added 4p to Camford Engineering at one point. Dealers reported a good turnover and the shares ended 2p up at 62p.

Elsewhere adverse comment trimmed 2 1/2p from English China Clays at 77p and Hestair lost 6p to 113p after a midweek rise.

End of account "bear" closing meant that the food retailing shares had their best session since Sainsbury sprung its "bombshell" earlier in the week.

The share itself was lowered another 2p to 180p, but for the most part there were gains with Kwik Save putting on a penny to 205p. Associated Dairies closing 2p better at 237p and both Murrin & Peacock at 104p and Linford at 162p, a penny or so better.

The one per cent cut in the mortgage rates brought little response from housebuilding

and related shares. Such shares have performed strongly over the past month or so and with the reduction already discounted end of account influences proved the stronger pull.

Countryside Properties managed to gain 2p to 55p and Fairview Estates held steady at 103p. But profit taking lowered Barratt Developments 2p to 122p, after 120p, and Crest Homes where the drop was 1p to 72p. Elsewhere in building Tarmac was another to be hit by end of account closing with the shares losing 4p to 134p.

Motor issues had a particularly weak spot in Lucas which dipped 7p to 271p but gearbox maker Turner Manufacturing managed to hold on to 102p in spite of profits which were below par and a warning that worse might be on the way. Lorry maker ERF continued to respond to its earlier buoyant profits and scrip, rising another 3p to 150p and gaining 11p on the week.

Elsewhere in the sector Avon Rubber dipped 4p to 188p on profit taking after a speculative rise and news of Toyota dealers Pride & Clarke's suspension came as no surprise after the group's strength this week. The shares were suspended at 267p, a gain of 15p on the day and

27p on the week, and the company has received an approach from an undisclosed source.

Oil shares were subdued by the downgrading of estimates for the Piper and Claymore Fields, the more so because estimates were raised only in the middle of last year.

Of shares directly affected Thomson Organisation slipped another 18p to 642p. The other feature, albeit weak, in the sector was Oil Exploration which lost another 4p to 272p on fading takeover hopes and further talk of a "dry" well.

Random firm spots were to be found in Wharfedale which added 3p to 165p, Johnson

Up 12p to 109p in the last couple of days. Roulinson Construction has been attracting speculative support. Jobbers say they have turned over around 20,000 shares in a two-way trade and think someone is building up a stake. Last month this Stockport-based group said it was encouraged by the response to an expansion into the West and West Midlands areas.

Mathew, where the gain was 4p to 470p and Reed International, up 3p to 128p. Companies reporting included insurance broker Christopher Moran which dipped 2p to 63p. Sidlaw which brought a favourable response with a rise of 2p to 99p and Westwell which ended steady at 191p.

Equity turnover on January 12 was £76.035m (14.057 bargains). According to Exchange Telegraph active stocks yesterday were BP, Shell, Grand Metropolitan, ICI, Unilever & Welch, Reedat, RLI Insurance, Consolidated Gold, Associated Dairies, Imperial Group, Barclays and Distillers.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
last or fig	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Avenue Close (I)	(—)	0.17(0.14)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)
First Nat Fin (F)	(—)	4.83(32.1e)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)
C. Moran Grp (I)	4.3(0.90)	0.37(0.33)	2.36(2.12)	1.32(1.1)	3/3	2.1(1.8)
Sidlaw Ind (F)	37.9(38.9)	1.06(0.73)	(—)	1.0(2.6)	20/3	(—)
Tech Inv (I)	(—)	1.18(1.13)	10.67(0.02)	4.51(3.88)	15/3	6.01(5.38)
Thorn Elec (I)	58.1(52.4)	0.45(0.38)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)
Turner Mamm (F)	25.44(19.63)	46.1(42.3)	15.2(13.8)	2.45(2.22)	3/3	(—)
Westwell (I)	2.15(2.14)	3.39(2.28)	26.2(16.7)	2.29(2.22)	(—)	3.99(3.57)
		0.11(0.08)	0.91(0.77)	NU(0.89)	(—)	(—)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.515. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. A loss.

One-for-four 'rights' from Alfred Preedy

A one-for-four rights issue to raise about £882,000 is to be made by Alfred Preedy and Sons. The issue will be of 1.57m ordinary shares at 56p each and will be underwritten by Industrial & Commercial Finance Corporation.

The board is forecasting a second interim, instead of a final, of 3.44p gross for the year to March 25 next on the increased capital. On the basis of total dividends of 4.31p gross, an ordinary shareholder taking up his rights would receive a gross dividend yield

of 7.71 per cent on the new shares. A total of 2.16p gross was paid for 1976-77.

Preedy is in wholesaling and retailing of tobacco, confectionery and fancy goods and as retail booksellers, newsagents and stationers. The issue will finance a £1m expansion programme by internal growth and acquisition, including completion, opening or restoring 13 retail shops and stores in the current year.

Brokers to the issue: Harris, Allday, Lea and Brooks and Panmure Gordon.

Turner Mfg tops £3m despite lower return in final stage

By Desmond Quigley

Turner Manufacturing's strong profit performance in the first half of the year was trimmed back somewhat later in the year. The result was that the traditional profit split was reversed with second-hand profits coming out at less than the first six months. Nevertheless, pre-tax profits increased by 48 per cent from a restated £2.29m to £3.4m in the year to October 1.

However, the company has forecast a "moderate reduc-

tion" in profits in the current year. Once the announcement was made, the shares were marked down heavily on the Stock Exchange, but they recovered during the day to close unchanged at 102p, to sell at 3.9 times earnings.

A final gross dividend of 3.58p a share is being recommended, making a total of 6.24p a share for the year compared with 5.5p gross the previous year.

In the second half Turner was affected by industrial dis-

rupting plants it supplies, as well as by the financial crisis in Turkey. Turkey has been the group's most important overseas market, but last year the British Government withdrew its export credit guarantee scheme covering the country and Turner's exports to the country have stopped sharply. The board and its advisers, Brown, Shipley, strongly and unanimously advise shareholders to reject the bid. ATVs offer is 55p cash a share, or an alternative of a mixture of cash and non-voting "A" shares. Tussaud's shares rose by a penny to 631p yesterday.

M Tussaud's predict 1978 peak profit of £2.1m

In the formal rejection by the board of Madame Tussaud's of the £11.6m offer from ATVs, the Tussauds' directors predict record profits for 1978. They forecast profits, before tax and extraordinary items, of about £2.1m. If achieved, this will be an increase of more than 27 per cent over the board's estimate of 1977 profits and a rise of over 100 per cent on 1976. A gross dividend of 4.83p gross is also predicted for this year—an increase of over 30 per cent on the total dividends intended to be paid for last year and the board points out over three times the 1976 total.

The board and its advisers, Brown, Shipley, strongly and unanimously advise shareholders to reject the bid. ATVs offer is 55p cash a share, or an alternative of a mixture of cash and non-voting "A" shares. Tussaud's shares rose by a penny to 631p yesterday.

BIRD & CO (AFRICA)
Chairman reports that on July 1, the fourth and final instalment of compensation of 3.62m Tanzania shillings is due to be received. Plans are in hand to place company in voluntary liquidation as soon as possible after this.

SINGLO HOLDINGS
Empire Plantations has bought a further 100,000 ordinary shares, bringing total to 1.42m (22.7 per cent).

ALLIED INVESTMENTS
United Medical has bought 490,000 Allied Investments ordinary 5p shares at 531p.

NAT MUTUAL LIFE
New business for 1977, sums assured totalled £2,258m (£2,248m). Annual premiums were £44.9m (£41.7m).

HAMBRO INCOME FUND
Allied Investors Trusts and Hambro Unit Trust Managers announce that the number of units of Allied Hambro Equity Income Trust to be issued to former Hambro Income Fund holders is 1,419. Allied Hambro Equity Income Trust for each Hambro Income Fund unit previously held.

TECHNOLOGY TRUST
Technology Investment Trust's gross income for half-year to November 30 up from £434,000 to £493,000.

EXCALIBUR
Board of Excalibur Jewellery proposes scrip issue of one 11.5 per cent cumulative preference share for every 40 ordinary shares held.

WILLIAMS EVANS
Offer by Booker McConnell for Williams Evans accepted for 98.2 per cent of ordinary and 97.5 per cent of preference shares. Offers remain open.

MANGANESE BRONZE
Valid election to receive new ordinary shares in cash for the final dividend for the year to July 31 last received from 1,108, out of a total of 2,199, shareholders, holding 1,661 million, out of a total of 9.6 million shares.

Epicure in complex reverse takeover

By Bryan Appleyard

A complex reverse takeover operation is announced by Epicure Holdings which will mean it acquires its own unquoted ultimate holding company, Sleas Holdings.

Once part of the lowson empire Epicure subsequently became 84 per cent owned by Sleas at an acquisition price of 51p per share. This stake is now down to 57 per cent. Epicure is now acquiring Sleas at a price of 587,500 by the issue of 12.5m new shares at 7p.

Sleas is owned by Mr R. J. Brealey and Mr L. Brealey, the chairman and a director of Epicure, and they will not therefore be voting on the resolution on the scheme. The rest of the board, however, have said they will vote in favour.

If the acquisition is approved the board is also proposing a one-for-two takeover of Grindlay Braids, advisers to the Epicure board, have agreed to buy the Sleas stake in Epicure. After the scrip issue 3.6m of these shares will be offered to existing shareholders at 5p per share and 441,000 to Sleas employees at the same price.

Epicure made a pre-tax profit of £26,000 in the year to June 30 against a loss of £35,000 the year before. There is no dividend, but if the Sleas scheme goes through a payout of 0.5 gross will be paid for the current year.

Epicure forecasts profits of not less than £25,000 for the current year and Sleas is forecasting at least £225,000 for the nine months to June 30, 1978, making £250,000 for the enlarged group.

Dividends for the year to June 30, 1979 are expected to total 0.75p gross.

Premium withdrawal hits textile side at Sidlaw Industries

By Ashley Druker

Hopes of Sidlaw Industries, the textiles, packaging and engineering group, for another profit rise in the year to September 30 have been disappointed, with a virtually unchanged outcome. Turnover was lower than the previous year, at £37.96m against £39.9m, chiefly because of the textiles rationalization programme besides the disposal of certain assets.

In the event, pre-tax profits were £1.19m compared with £1.18m, but lower tax and extraordinary items brought earnings a share up from 9.02p to 10.67p. It pays a total dividend lifted from 8.29p gross to 9.09p.

Generally the textiles division was hit by the abrupt withdrawal of the regional employment premium. This would have contributed about £200,000 to trading profit. Rationalization caused some disruption but partly to offset this there was an allocation of £144,000 from a Government revenue grant.

In the second half the market

for consumer durables was particularly depressed, affecting both the textiles and hardware divisions. In event, textiles brought in a profit of £1.19m, but lower tax and extraordinary items brought earnings a share up from 9.02p to 10.67p. It pays a total dividend lifted from 8.29p gross to 9.09p.

On the brighter side, oil vices and engineering trading profit 14 per cent £900,000. There was no contribution from the sale of 1 perty-related assets, compared with £200,000 in the previous year.

Overall, the group is seen in better shape at year-end 12 months previously. In early months of the current year, oil services and engineering continued to make headway but markets for textiles, hardware remain dull. B sectors, however, are poised to take advantage of an upturn in demand. Elsewhere, bank ratings, some £2m lower year-end, have been well controlled and interest rates have been lower.

Christopher Moran leaps

Results from Christopher Moran, the Lloyd's insurance broker and underwriter, show a rise in pre-tax profits of 49 per cent to £1.08m for the six months to July 31.

Turnover of the group leapt from £908,000 to £4.37m and it pays an interim dividend of 1.515p compared with 4.06p for the corresponding period. Latest figures include the industrial division for which no comparisons are available.

Meanwhile, the board states that negotiations are continuing for the sale of the two remaining industrial subsidiaries. This will enable the group's business

to become purely insurance and other related activities.

The insurance division performed very well in latest half with pre-tax profit 43.4 per cent above those of the previous period.

In the meantime satisfactory progress continues, in the background of the adverse effect caused by the fall in interest rates and the strengthening sterling against the dollar.

An extraordinary dividend of £554,000, which consists largely of the write-off of good arising at the time of buy results solely from the sale of three of the group's industrial companies.

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The top performing unit trust of 1977 was M&G Recovery which jumped by 115.9p.c. SUNDAY TELEGRAPH 1.1.78

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If you cannot sign Part I of the Declaration below delete it and sign Part II. Declaration PART I I declare that, to the best of my belief, I am in good health and free from disease, that I have not had any serious illness or major operation, that I do not engage in aviation except as a fare-paying passenger on a recognised route, and that no proposal on my life has ever been adversely treated.

PART II I agree that any declaration made by me in connection with this proposal shall be the basis of the contract between me and M&G Trust (Assurance) Ltd, and that I will accept their customary form of policy. I agree to provide any further information the company may require. (A specimen of the policy form is available on request.)

SIGNATURE DATE

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THE M&G GROUP

WEARWELL LIMITED

Interim Financial Statement

THE UNAUDITED GROUP TRADING RESULTS FOR THE 26 WEEKS TO 28th OCTOBER, 1977, are:			
	26 weeks ended 28th October 1977	26 weeks ended 29th October 1976	52 weeks ended 29th April 1977
Sales	£1,156	£1,156	£1,156
Group Profit before Taxation	111	85	86
Taxation (Estimated)	58	44	(393)
Group Profit after Taxation	53	41	479
Interim Dividend	53	41	479
Retained Profits	53	41	479
Earnings per share before Taxation	0.91p	0.77p	0.78p
Earnings per share after Taxation based on Notional Tax at 52%	0.43p	0.37p	4.26p

'The first six months' trading of the current year has helped the Company to further strengthen its Cash Flow and Working Capital situation.

I am pleased to announce that the Company has a full order book both in Export and Home Trade. Currently turnover is running above last year's levels. The Board has decided not to recommend an Interim Dividend and will reconsider the matter as soon as the results for the year are known.

ASIL NADIR, Chairman.

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BELL'S

SCOTCH WHISKY

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

	Index, 1964-1973	Div. Yield %	Earnings, 1973	Index, 1964-1973
	Latest			Previous
The Times Index				
Total share indices	3025.57	6.44	11.96	2930.00
Industrial shares	2725.73	6.23	11.56	2630.00
Smaller cos. etc.	2256.40	6.41	11.56	2160.00
Capital issues	2256.40	6.87	15.93	2160.00
Commodity shares	214.22	6.94	11.18	210.00
Money Shares	100.84	8.00	7.63	100.00
Largest financial shares				
10 cos. (financial)	332.49	1.39	—	230.00
10 cos. (financial)	332.49	1.63	—	210.00
Commodity shares	209.21	6.83	12.43	200.00
10 cos. Mining & services	265.50	5.24	16.94	270.00
Industrial share indices				
10 cos. (industrial)	63.50	6.17*	—	50.00
10 cos. (industrial)	62.14	11.06*	—	50.00
10 cos. (industrial)	50.00	9.71*	—	50.00
	High	Low		
1960	14,600.57	10,515.00		
1961	15,000.00	10,515.00		
1962	15,000.00	10,515.00		
1963	15,000.00	10,515.00		
1964	15,000.00	10,515.00		
1965	15,000.00	10,515.00		
1966	15,000.00	10,515.00		
1967	15,000.00	10,515.00		
1968	15,000.00	10,515.00		
1969	15,000.00	10,515.00		
1970	15,000.00	10,515.00		
1971	15,000.00	10,515.00		
1972	15,000.00	10,515.00		
1973	15,000.00	10,515.00		

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Weekend

SHOP AROUND

Philippa Toomey

Making magic carpets

I remember with love the first carpet I ever bought—it was scarlet, 12ft by 9ft and I had to find a little man with a van to go and collect it from Macy's, because all their delivery vans were on strike. As we were in New York, he went, collected it, and charged me three-quarters of the price he had quoted because it really hadn't been all that much trouble. I had no furniture at the time—but the apartment had been newly painted white and carpets, like books, do furnish a room.

It is clearly a much better idea to have some furniture, and some idea of how things are going to look. I went to David Hicks's showroom at 101 Jermyn Street (a long way from the Hell's Kitchen Branch of the Salvation Army where I got my furniture in New York) where he has all one could possibly want to complete the look of perfection—starting from the floor up. From a professional decorator or designer, in whatever field he works, one can always learn something to one's advantage. Going through the door you notice at once the creative use of door mat, which, set into the carpet, stretches for at least three times the usual length of the one marked "welcome" and has interesting off-shoots, so that when you stop to look at an exquisitely arranged set of shelves, your great dirty hoofs are resting on a square of door mat strategically placed.

Borders are the thing—in the double window are two room sets with white cord bordered in red, and shown here is a patterned red carpet with a darker red border. Downstairs the showroom is carpeted in a small, severe geometric pattern in grey, black and white, and on the shelves are carpet samples in a riot of colour—a smashing one in red with two shades of mauve, one in bright clear green and white, and another of an almost Arab complexity of design in yellow and pink. There are more subdued shades, and pastels, and many are what are described as "sculptured". All these are to order from David Hicks, prices range from £20 (plus VAT) per metre, all carpets are 80 per cent wool, 20 per cent nylon, and you may have any carpet in any colour—there is an extra charge for anything under 25 metres, special dyeing is also extra, and the carpets are in various weights to cope with light or heavy traffic. There is a great deal more to be written on David Hicks's influence on design in general and carpets in particular, but everything in the shop is beautiful—a delight to the eye, and well worth a detour, as the guidebooks say.



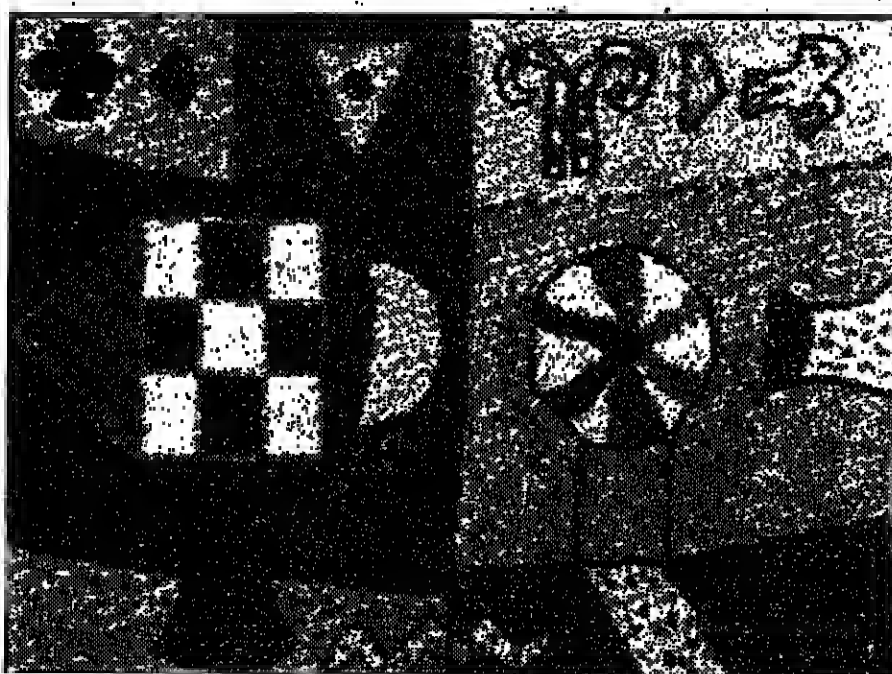
Above left: Doris the sheep (100 per cent wool) with Jubilee Carpet. Above right: A corner of David Hicks's show room.

What turned out to be the heaviest traffic in the whole of the carpet world (a year's wear in seven months) started out as one of those light hearted notions that everyone laughed heartily at and then said "Why not?" Carpets in London buses for just one year? What a deft idea, let's do it. And so the International Wool Secretariat and London Transport got together and laid 100 per cent pure new wool carpets straight onto the upper and lower decks of 25 Silver Jubilee buses, with no effete nonsense like underfelt. It was heavy contract work. Six of wool to the square yard from Thomson Shepherd of Dundee, the sort of thing that goes in hotel lobbies and restaurants, and a quarter of a million people in a cold wet and muddy summer tramped more than 157 lb of dirt and grit into them, not to mention chewing gum and cigarette ash, though London Transport declare that comparatively few cigarettes were ground out on the carpets, and people actually behaved better in carpeted buses.

Although a regular cleaning programme had been suggested, the carpets received only minimum vacuum cleaning, and no wet cleaning at all, and yet, as Londoners will remember, while the first few feet of carpet looked pretty dire, the rest of it was not bad at all. When they got round to testing them, carpet to the entrance had almost doubled in weight with the dirt. Total immersion, tender loving care and a close inspection by the Wool Industries Research Association have revealed the carpets to be looking almost as good as new, and they are triumphantly on display to the world, both clean and soiled, at the Westminster International Fair at Frankfurt this week to demonstrate that British Carpets Certainly Can Take It.

Few people actually live in buses (though sometimes it seems that a high proportion of our waking hours is spent waiting for one or sitting or standing in one) and while the sensible people made straight for Sandersons when it came to wallpaper, it is only recently that they have entered the carpet field. To mark this occasion, the Press is to see assembling, yawning and rubbing its eyes, at 8 am on the way to Garwick for a day trip to Nice to look at some carpets and wallpaper (with matching fabrics). We had a marvellous time, the clear air of the autumn on the Riviera being exactly right for the appreciation of subtle shades and colourings, added to a delicious lunch, after which the culture vultures to the party (*House and Garden*, *The Guardian*, *The Times*) went straight off to the Fondation Maeght and then to a swift trip through St Paul de Vence, and on a bar's back we did not fly straight home to Garwick, we sat for an hour and a half on the plane in Nice waiting for air traffic controllers to get back in concerning themselves with us. Fortunately I never travel without a square yard of tapestry (with a spare needle) as an antidote to boredom, and Corinna Wildman, sitting next to me, finished reading two or three books, but we enjoyed it.

Back home in Berners Street, the carpets still look good—21 plain colours, from Antique white to Peat brown, 80 per cent wool, 20 per cent nylon, Super Hostess for heavy domestic use, Hostess, which is lighter, but has the same 21 colours (Super Hostess from £9.50 per square yard, £11 per square metre, Hostess £8.50, £10, not including VAT). The Citation range of carpets is after William Morris—Jasmine an adaptation of a Morris design in three colourways, jade, gold, shades of fawn, or coral/beige, and Poppy (shown here) is Art Nouveau in brown/beige or gold shades. There is also Patchwork, which contains varied Morris designs in hexagonal shapes, and Golden Lily, originally designed by a pupil of Morris, J. B. Dearle. I'm in two (or



Above left: Gilt Edge Carpet. Above right: Poppy from Sanderson's Citation range.

even three) minds about the Citation carpets. While I like the idea, I found the effect rather busy and fussy—but that is a personal opinion, and you might feel quite differently. Citation is from £15 per square yard, £17 per square metre, exclusive of VAT.

How busy is a carpet? I'm sure this is a matter of taste. I was absolutely horrified to discover in my church which is new and modern, the wall behind the altar painted scarlet, with black and white tiles in the sanctuary, that someone had had the bright idea of slapping a thick carpet in so elaborate design of gold, green, cream and pink over half the black and white tiles, just in time for the Cardinal's visit. Everyone loves it, but me, and I find it horribly distracting and may even take to attending in dark glasses. On the other hand, when I witnessed (visibly) at a carpet in a trade show, said apologetically that this colouring, which was ferocious enough to graze you by the ankles and devour you from the feet up, had been a special order for a large pub, and an adaptation of a perfectly acceptable and pleasant design shown right next to it. There's a thesis to be written on the aims, purposes and aspects of carpets in pubs.

At a show for Munster Carpets, the effect was exactly the opposite—Irish charm (and possibly Irish coffee) took us smoothly through 100 per cent wool carpets from Cork in scintillating natural colours with Irish names like Achill Brown, Tory Beige, Valentia Grey, and in every colour combination and quality you can imagine. At the moment, Munster Carpets are for contract use only and the public cannot buy them direct, but if, dear reader, you happen to be a bank or an insurance company or an embassy or an institution, they may be reached at Grange, Douglas, Cork, Ireland, or at their showroom in London at 86 Plushet Grove, East Ham, E6.

There is a new emphasis on custom-made carpets—any colour, any size, any design. Gilt Edge Carpets at 14-15 Berners Street, W1, are prepared to provide a service of bespoke carpet and special rug making. Here shown is a splendidly sculptured rug in shades of brown, beige, cream and white, and a corner of Cecil Gee's new shop in Sloane Street, with the initial carpet in four sections which has been specially made, a commission following on an order for carpets for Nigel Gee's own flat. Many of these rugs are designed as wall hangings—and all are made from 100 per cent wool, and the

shearing (of the carpets) is done by hand. Prices, seeing that every piece is an individual order, range from £350 upwards.

If your carpet is so beautiful that you feel you must hang it on the wall rather than put it on the floor, you are still stuck for a floor covering. On then, in Afia, in Baker Street, where David and Judith Afia absolutely love *Times* readers, when formed an orderly, friendly queue round in Crawford Street after the mention of their sale in Sheila Black's Shop-around. The queue was helpful and polite to one another, and though it was a heavy day in the shop, no one got killed in the rush. Not only do they have a very nice and inexpensive cord at £2.65 a yard, but they will have, in about a month's time from China some nice paper carpet—it looks like matting, and no, you can't cut it, though the sample looked deliciously crunchy and that will be £3.25 a square yard. There are some exciting developments in carpet design and Afia is always right in the forefront. A new designer for them is Manuel Canovas, from France, with some lovely designs which include St Patrick (shown here) white shamrock on blue at 70cm wide, £38 per linear metre. There was an en-

chanting one called Arcadie, with funny little birds in pink and green. Other carpets, which can be produced in any colour, include the black flowers on white ground shown here (Flower, 70cm wide, £42 per linear metre)—there is quite a lot of black about in the new carpets—and a nice far Victorian rose, cream on a green ground at £18.25 a linear yard, 27in wide, which you may have in five different colours. As a very special order they picked out the design of a curtain border and incorporated it as a border for a plain carpet—£150 for the design only, then you start paying for the carpet. There's the biggest, most Berber of Berber carpets, which looks like the heath at Brighton, at £65 the metre ("Millionaire's carpet" says David Afia). And what do they have in their own home? Plain Wilton. But they do experiment with carpets in the guest room.

For those of us who are beginning, it's straight round to Habitat—starting out with the old standby Panama, broadloom coil approximately four metres wide, latex backed, and £4.35 a square metre. On top of that you may fling the Indian rug—in particular the striped Haseena durries, 41in x 71in, handwoven

in cotton, and the two new designs I had this year, the Temple border, which is a two-tone rug with a light shade blue, red, tan or green in the mid bordered by a darker shade, 53in x 7 at £17.95, 71in x 88in, at £29.95. I have lots of natural coloured rush mats, sisal rugs in cream and other delectable things in stock, and on the way to India, subject to all the perils that I lock mentioned ("Ships are but boats, sailors but men; there be land-rats, water-rats, land-thieves and water-thieves—I mean pirates—and then there is peril of waters, winds and rocks"), to mention Customs delays, dock strikers and the like, there are some attractive additions. One is the Ranji durrie in stripes of cream, red and black (90 x 195 cms) at £4.95, and a new type durrie which is made entirely of jute at £10.95 (110cm by 200cm) one in beige/maroon/orange stripe and one in oil red/purple/beige—there is a diamond pattern down the sides and a large mound in the middle. There will be a new wool/cotton druggie at £30.50 brown/tan/olive (150cm by 225cm) and two new mats, the Chatai, a 6m mat, 4ft x 6ft 5in, bordered with bor edges, which rolls up and ties so it can be used as a beach mat at £2.95, and a new one which is simply cut in a folding grass mat which folds in the centre and the rolls, in multi-colour stripes, 30in long, 6ft wide, at £3. With luck, say Habitat, nervously or log all their fingers, they should be in the shops in mid February.

A chance visit to the gallery of Gim Fils to Davies Street produced a big surprise. I have seen (or I think I have) a book on the decorative arts of 1930s, and I have seen (or I think I have) by this artist to his present vein is rather a horrid thought) but at Gim Fils was an exhibition of wool tapestries on the hand-hooked rug principle designed by Alan Davie. Fish Flag, shown here (at £1,600) is an extremely large piece, and I am only sorry that an industrial dispute comparable in complexity and mystification to the argument going on over a century or so (sixth to seventh between the Monothetes and Monophites prevents us from showing you illustrations in colour. Pink, blue, red, yellow shines out from these cheer tapestries (or rugs) each in a small edition of eight. I find hooked rugs kits and sets generally very dull and expensive, and look forward to the day when a designer does for the hooked kit what Anna Pearson and others have done for the tapestry kit. Will someone please contact Alan Davie?

Some years ago, while listening to a macabre tale of family life (the resuscitation of a comatose and much lovelier hamster by putting under a very low grill my sister in law and I cast our eyes down in horror and discovered we were looking at a marvellous hand hooked rug. Made by Jean Dwyer, who has now gone on greater things with woven rugs, we were both struck by the design (Jean's own) and the colour she used. My sister in law is now deep into hooked rugs, and the both get their rug wool from a carpet factory in Durham, at approximately £6 a lb, and it comes in skeins or in a spool 85 per cent wool, 15 per cent nylon. You can't get a shade card, but they both set up samples of wool, or bits of paper, or pieces from paint shade cards and have been very satisfied with the results. The square feet takes about 5 lb, which is a heavy rug of about 2ft 5in by 4ft, and at this stage you can wash it in the bath and spin it—it does wash very well, but anything bigger is very heavy when we ask for self coloured thrums with your colour samples from Hugh Mackay, P1 Box 1, Durham, and remember the postage is also payable. One of these days, too, will start on rug—by, clubs brother, when in the Merchant Navy, use to while away the hours when other people were drinking or fighting or doing something more useful in making some extremely complicated rugs. It is a perfectly amiable activity if you wish to press all hands into recovering the state room floor. You can take a look at Alan Davie (the exhibition ends on January 28th) or try something simple and subtle by Moodrian—the Teta has a nice one called "Composition in Grey Red, Yellow and Blue".

You can also knit your own Aran rug—Sirdar have a leaflet for three Aran patterns and a pack with enough wool for one, plus the needles and the pattern cost me £4.40 at my local wool shop, and you can wash this one, too. Or, of course, you can show your own rug. Ian Trevia, who lived in his Norfolk Cottage over the holiday, discovered a hutch who deals in whole sheep for the freezer, and has gone into the sheepskin rug business as a sideline. You can always tell a real sheep skin, he says, because, if stroked, it doesn't moult—if any hair comes away, it's a goat in sheep's clothing. Properly treated the sheep skin can also be put in the washing machine, and should be lightly stretched when removed, from £11 each. In Hackney I bought my own rug—20in x 30in, 50 per cent wool, 50 per cent rubber backed (no need for any Society for the Preservation of the Tiger to worry) for £12. "Doo! see these often", said the cheerful Irishman, of my cheque. Access cards, my neighbour tells me, are also had in Hackney, too many of them about, and not always belonging to the right people. So I rolled up the tiger and carried it home, remembering the splendid people in the rug department of Liberty, who made a parcel for me of a rug 6ft by 9ft without turning the proverbial hair, with a string handle, and I bopped on a bus with it—I sat, it stood. The tiger rug is generally available, and the Irishman had had a delivery of 50, of which one was a white tiger—as in nature, the tiger colour had missed it. If you do not wish to sink like Eleanor Glynn (rather, like the heroine of *Three Weeks*) on a tiger skin, and prefer to err on some other fur, Sanderson's had a square of leopard by the yard in their sale, 6ft by 4ft, at £35.

A good carpet is a joy, perhaps not forever, but for a very long time; so it is worth choosing carefully. That carpet in my church, for example is obviously going to last, tracked over by little boys dripping candles, until the Last Trump. We certainly can't take it with us where we hope we are going, as I am reliably informed there is no need for quite a lot of things, including carpets. We are going to have to get used to a sea of glass, and I certainly hope it is non-slip.

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